

Rehoming Your Cat

GUIDELINES FOR PLACING YOUR CAT OR A STRAY CAT IN A NEW HOME

1. Place the Cat With Care

Not everyone is kind to cats—they may be used as “bait,” used for experimentation, abandoned to die, hit by cars, or euthanized at the pound among other poor outcomes. Your choices determine not only your cat’s happiness, but also whether they find a safe, loving home—or face an uncertain fate.

2. Your Placement Options

- **Purebred cats?** Contact the breeder—they often take back or rehome cats.
- **Non-purebred?** Try rehoming yourself.
- If you can’t rehome, **don’t** abandon, surrender to a kill shelter, or release outdoors.
- Instead, call local rescue groups or your vet for assistance.

3. Making Your Cat Adoptable

- **Vet check-up** – Rule out health causes for behavioral issues.
- **Vaccinate**, test for FELV/FIV, update rabies tag and license.
- **Parasite control** – Treat worms, ear mites, fleas, ticks.
- **Spay/neuter immediately** – Essential for adoption and health.
- **Grooming** – Brush mats, give a warm bath, use a vet-approved shampoo. Equip with a breakaway collar.
- **Address behavior issues** – Be honest and either correct problems before rehoming or keep the cat if not adoptable.

4. Advertising Strategically

- **Online & Social Media**
 - **Social platforms** are your best friends—post on **Instagram**, **Facebook**, **Nextdoor**, and even **TikTok** if your cat's got personality. Use **photos**, **reels**, and **stories** to catch eyes.
 - Write a compelling post with the cat’s **name**, **age**, **breed**, spay/neuter status, and **a loving but honest description** of their personality and needs.
 - Tag local groups, use hashtags like **#CatForAdoption**, **#AdoptDontShop**, and your **city/area tags** (e.g., **#BayAreaCats**).

- Share in **local Facebook groups** and pet rehoming communities.
- **Nextdoor** is great for hyper-local neighbors looking to adopt. Post a listing in your neighborhood or ones nearby.
- Always **screen potential adopters**—cute comments don't mean qualified homes.
- **Flyers & Word of Mouth**
 - Post flyers at **vet offices, pet stores, community centers, libraries, and cafés**.
 - Include a photo and essential info with a clear, respectful call to action.
 - Tell **friends, family, coworkers**—you never know who's looking for a furry soulmate.
- **Pro Tip**
 - Avoid "**free to good home**"—instead, requesting a **modest adoption fee** to cover vet expenses reminds a potential adopter to be prepared for the responsibility of pet ownership.

5. Screening Potential Adopters

Ask and verify:

- Full name and phone number
- Household composition—especially children's ages.
- Presence of other pets (cats, dogs).
- Reason for adoption.
- Pet ownership history and outcomes.
- Housing status—own or rent, and pet policies.
- Plans for the cat's location (inside vs. garage/outside).
- Time available for care—unsupervised hours?
- Primary caretaker and responsibility.
- Travel habits—plans for vacations or moves.
- Discipline approaches and feeding/litter arrangements.

6. Reference Checks

- **Vet reference:** Confirm medical care routines (vaccinations, stool checks, spay/neuter)
- **Personal references:**

- Relationship with adopter
- Their pet care history
- Fenced yard?
- Would they trust the adopter with their own pet?

7. Meeting the Applicant

- **Home visit** (without the cat initially) – verify suitability and environment.
- **Cat introduction** – In your home, observe how they interact with the cat — gentle, respectful behavior? Are the kids supervised?

8. Tips for Transitioning the Cat

To a Home with No Other Pets

- First few days: Possible outside litter box eliminations due to scent disorientation.
- Keep them confined; gradually increase roaming space once litter habits are reestablished.
- Maintain familiar feeding and play routines to ease adjustment.

To a Home with Other Pets

- **Slow introduction:**
 1. Keep cats separate (1–2 weeks).
 2. Exchange scents (toys/bedding/litter).
 3. Supervised face-to-face time.
- **With dogs:** ensure safe size and supervised playtime. Spend equal attention on both animals.

9. Follow-Up After Adoption

- Stay in touch; offer visits and support.
- Provide vet records, feeding plan, medications, favorite toy/blanket, and ID tags.
- Ensure the adopter will return the cat if it is not a good match for the home.
- Use an informal agreement outlining responsibilities and return policy.
- **Feel assured:** with these steps, your cat is set up for success in a caring new home.