



How to Adopt the Perfect Cat

Animal shelters are full of cats who will easily adjust to a variety of lifestyles and living spaces. Deciding on who to adopt may be the hardest part of all!

- 1) Kitten or cat?** Generally, kittens are more active and full of energy, and cats are more relaxed and retiring. Households with young children should adopt an animal who is at least 4 months old.
- 2) Short or long hair?** Long haired cats need regular grooming. Short-haired cats are "lower maintenance," but benefit from regular grooming as well.
- 3) Who do you have at home already?** If you have other cats or dogs at home, you might want to choose a cat who has lived with other animals before, or a kitten who will grow up with the other animals.
- 4) What is the cat's personality like?** Is he shy and gentle? Exuberant and active? You'll have to decide which type of disposition is best for you.
- 5) Make it a family affair.** Bring all family members to the shelter to take part in the decision.
- 6) Ask shelter staff.** They have great expertise with animals, know the shelter cats better than anyone, and will be able to advise you on which ones would make the best match.
- 7) Looking for a specific breed not currently at the shelter?** Ask shelter staff for a referral to a breed rescue group - these groups specialize in specific breeds and have them available for adoption.
- 8) Adopt for life.** Your cat will depend on you for love and care for all of his or her lifetime.

RESOURCES AND FURTHER INFORMATION ON ADOPTION

www.hsus.org: Click on "Pets", then "Pet Adoption Information"

www.pets911.com: Click on "Adopt a Pet", then "Important things to think about"

Everyone can help end America's homeless animal tragedy