

Adoption Policies ^[1]

You're Thinking About Adding to Your Family!

That's Great!

Adopting a kitten is a long-term commitment.

Cats can live well beyond 10 years, easily to 15 and some live into their 20s. A very few have even gotten to 30! **Please make sure you've considered the cost and how it will affect your budget over a decade worth of food and litter costs, annual wellness exams and the amount of time and love your new friend is going to require before moving forward.**

If you're not sure you're ready for a rambunctious kitten, adopting an older cat may be for you! Their personality is already formed so if you want a lap cat, you'll know what you're getting up front. Adults are mellower, but still have the desire to play, just not usually at 2AM when you're trying to sleep. If we're called Kitten Associates, why would we suggest you adopt an adult when K.A. doesn't usually have adults available for adoption?

Answer: Adults are often overlooked because kittens are so very cute - even though kittens have grown to their full size by the time they are less than a year old. Adult cats can't compete with that, but kittens require a lot more care than adults do. We would rather you adopt the **RIGHT** cat for you even if we don't have that cat! **We can, however, help you find what you're looking for because ultimately EVERY cat that needs a good home matters to us. It doesn't matter if you adopt from us, as long as you adopt from a Shelter or Rescue Group!**

AND never take on a **Free** kitten from Craigslist or buy one from a store (*see our costs, at right, to see how much that FREE kitten will end up costing you*).

Getting a New Kitten Means... Doing Some Shopping!

Your new kitten will need:

- **A new or freshly washed out cat carrier** (*please bring with you to pick up your new kitty!*)
- **A litter pan, uncovered-only, with no litter pan liner.** Cats don't like to be confined when they use their pan and liners bother them. Please use ONLY UNSCENTED litter.
- **Stainless steel or ceramic food and water bowl** (*as long as the glazing does not have lead*). Plastic or melamine pet food dishes hold bacteria in them no matter how well you clean them. They can also cause Feline Acne.
- **Toys! Cats need stimulation and play time.** It helps keep them happy, healthy and from using YOU as a toy! NEVER use your hands as a toy or your little cat will grow up into a big cat that can bite you when you try to pet her! We suggest a variety of different types of toys. Fake mice, small balls, long string-wand based toys, as well as feather-attached-to-string toys and catnip toys that are large enough for your kitty to hug and bite.
- **Scratching posts and pads. A VITAL tool for keeping your precious belongings from being shredded.** Provide a vertical scratching surface either made of red cedar, carpeted or covered with sisal that is over 31 tall and is VERY STURDY. Your cat will need to be able to comfortably stand and stretch out completely to unknot those muscles and to sharpen claws. Also get at least one, if not more, horizontal and/or angled pad-type corrugated cardboard cat scratchers.
- **What about treats?** Cats don't really need treats, but if you want to give them something yummy, you can buy dehydrated chicken or salmon, no beef, treats that are NOT dry kibble, but actual pieces of dried meat. Most pet shops carry a variety of kinds. You can also give your kitty, Frankenprey. If you're going to roast a turkey or chicken and it comes with the giblets, you can offer the giblets, just rinsed in a bit of cool water, to your cats as is. The neck of the poultry is great for cleaning cats teeth. The can't eat it, but they can gnaw on it, which is why it does such a great job.
- **Kitten or Cat Food.** There are many types of high quality canned grain-free cat and kitten food, as well as pre-mixed raw meat foods we can recommend. We'll help you choose what's right for your cat during the adoption process. If you're interested in feeding a RAW diet (preferred), we can help you with resources and simple guidelines, as well.

A Good Diet for a Long, Healthy Life

One of the reasons why Kitten Associates is the **New Breed of Cat Rescue** is partially due to what we feed our foster kittens. **They don't get dry food—ever. Nor do they get food that has grain in it: corn, wheat, soy, rice or oats is a no-no.**

Our policy is simple: **NO DRY FOOD, EVER. NO "Prescription or Science Diets canned OR dry."**

While we prefer you feed a Raw Diet, you are free to choose from a variety of **GRAIN FREE, CANNED FOOD** options available at all pet food stores. There are many to choose from at a variety of price points. **We will supply you with a list of foods we feed our fosters and help you choose what's best for your budget.**

Why are we so picky?

Cats are "*obligate*" carnivores, meaning they **MUST** eat meat as their main source of nutrition. The more processed (*cooked, baked, grilled, dried*) their food is, the worse their health is over the course of their lifetime.

Although this diet is somewhat more expensive than some low quality or dry cat foods, the savings in Vet visits more than makes up for the initial cost. **The thought is you can pay for it now or make your cat "pay for it" later by the long-term effects of grain and over-processing in her diet.**

All kittens in our foster program are fed a grain-free canned food diet. Because we realize not everyone can feed, what we consider to be, the most appropriate diet of raw meat mixed with some vitamins and minerals, we begin them on grain-free canned and will assist any adopter in making the change over to a **RAW*** diet after they bring kitty home.

***Based on guidelines developed by the Feline Nutrition Education Society <https://www.feline-nutrition.org>**

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

DOWNLOAD THESE HELPFUL GUIDES



What Should You Be Feeding Your Cat?

[2]



The Dangers of Dry Food

[3]



Raw Feeding for Beginners

[4]



Transitioning to a Raw Diet

[5]

Spay/Neuter Policy

We only adopt out cats that have been spayed or neutered prior to adoption. Shelters are overflowing with unwanted pets and millions of healthy cats are euthanized due to overcrowding issues. We will **never** add to that problem by allowing any of our foster cats to reproduce.

We support juvenile spay/neuter of our adoptable kittens who are healthy and over 8 weeks of age. If you'd like to know more about why it's safe and effective to do early-age S/N, please visit this helpful link from the ASPCA: <https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/spayneuter/early-spay-neuter.html> [6]

Declawing is NOT an Option.

Thinking about declawing your cat? Think again! Declawing is not the removal of a portion of a claw. Instead, it is the surgical amputation of the first joint of the cat's toes. Whether this procedure is accomplished with a scalpel, a guillotine-type cutter or a laser, it is major surgery, and not to be undertaken lightly. **In countries outside the USA, it's actually illegal!**

Declawed cats have a much higher incidence of litterbox aversion, and biting too!

Here's some helpful information about the dangers of declawing and some tips on how to encourage your new kitty to enjoy sharpening her claws in ways that don't end up ruining your furnishings.

<https://www.declawing.com> [7]

How to trim kitty's claws: <https://www.catscratching.com/htmls/article.htm> [8] or use SoftPaws <https://www.softpaws.com> [9] or scratching posts effectively: <https://www.catscratching.com> [10]



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!function(f,b,e,v,n,t,s) {if(f.fbq)return;n=f.fbq=function(){n.callMethod?
n.callMethod.apply(n,arguments):n.queue.push(arguments)};
if(!f._fbq)f._fbq=n;n.push=n;n.loaded=!0;n.version='2.0'; n.queue=[];t=b.createElement(e);t.async=!0;
t.src=v;s=b.getElementsByTagName(e)[0]; s.parentNode.insertBefore(t,s)}(window, document,'script',
'https://connect.facebook.net/en_US/fbevents.js'); fbq('init', '559322177560102'); fbq('track', 'PageView');
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Source URL: <https://kittenassociates.org/adoption-policies>

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