

Before adopting a cat from your local animal shelter, here are some questions to consider, and tips to prepare your home for the arrival of your cat.

Questions to ask yourself and your family when considering adoption:

- Are all family members in agreement about the adoption?
- Do you own your home, or do you lease? Are you allowed to have pets? Is there a contingency clause about declawing the animal? (NEVER recommended!)
- Does anyone in your family have allergies, or negative interactions with a cat?
- What is your lifestyle? Is your home peaceful and quiet, or is it a busy place with noise, and people coming and going? This information will be helpful when you meet the cats available for adoption. If the cat is a stray, the shelter staff won't have any background information; but if the cat is an "owner-surrender," valuable information may be available from the previous owner.
- What type of cat are you looking for? Senior cats have established personalities and life experience. Kittens require a lot of structure, time and patience. BOTH require lots of tender loving care.
- Do you have previous experience with cat behavior? If not, do you have support resources available for veterinary care and behavior?
- Can you set up your home so your new cat will have a quiet place to transition?

Setting up your home for your new cat

- A separate and secured room is strongly recommended, as your new cat will need a quiet place to decompress. Especially shy cats may need extra time to adjust, so providing a "safe" spot will assist with their progress and success. Transition can take up to 14 days, especially for a shy/anxious cat.
- Ensure all windows and doors are secured at all times. All windows should have screens.
- Review with all family members the importance of keeping the door to the "safe" room closed. Of even greater importance is keeping the doors leading outside closed. Your cat needs to stay safe and sound inside your home.
- Remove any plants/flowers that are toxic to cats.

Supplies

- Food
- Food and water dishes
- Uncovered litter box and litter
- Scratching posts
- Feliway (cat pheromone that assists with stress and behaviors)
- Cat beds/hidey spot/cube/kennel. It is suggested you bring at least one piece of bedding home from the shelter to assist with transition, as having their own smell alleviates stress.
- Comfort companion; a stuffed animal that can be a snuggle buddy.
- Cat trees/perches
- Music; recommendation is "Through a Cat's Ear."
- Enrichment toys
- Cat DVDs
- Collar/ID tag

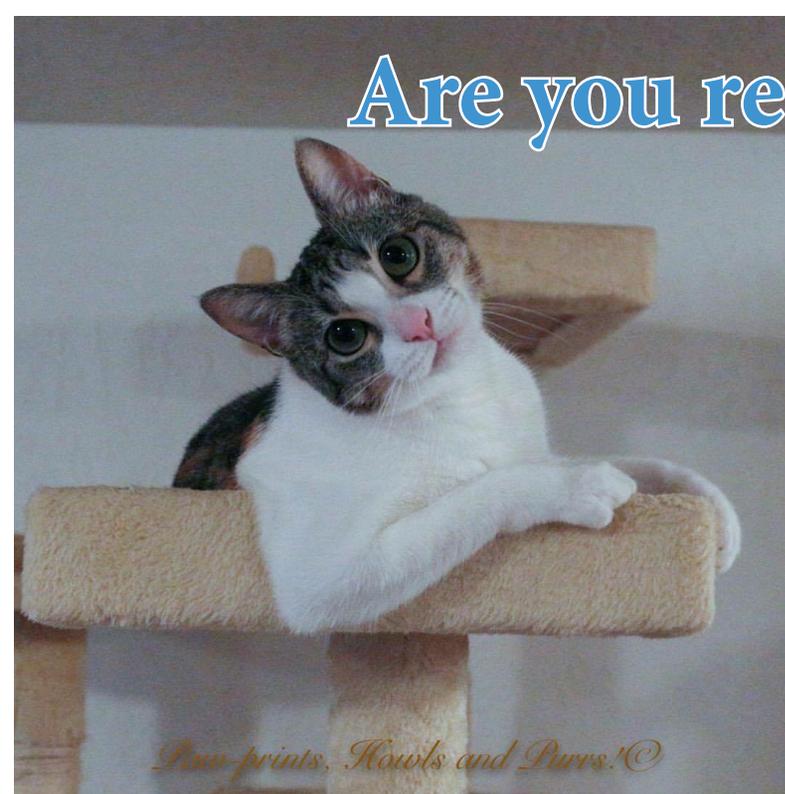
**Now you are READY to choose
your next PURRfect companion!**
*Remember to register your new cat's microchip
as soon as you get home!*



ALASKA'S KAAATs
KITTY ADVOCACY AWARENESS ADOPTION TAILS

*Alaska's KAAATs is an Associate Certified Cat Behavior Consultant (ACCBC)
through the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC)*

Are you ready...



Paw-prints, Howls and Purrs!©

For more support and tips
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...to adopt a cat?



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