

## F.A.C.T. Adoption Policies

**Application Process:** To help ensure that we place our cats in loving, responsible, committed homes, we have a screening process before you can adopt a pet from F.A.C.T. We reserve the right to turn down potential adopters as we deem necessary. Our process includes asking questions, asking to see proof of identity and checking veterinary references, particularly when you have other animals at home.

The first step is to fill out an application, which can be found on our website. Once you have filled it out it will be reviewed by an adoption counselor. Once you have passed this step in the process, you will be contacted via phone by either the adoption counselor or foster home to determine which cat will be the best match for your home. During this conversation, we will also fill you in on the history and needs (i.e. dietary) of the pet. You are welcome to ask the adoption coordinator/foster family any questions you may have as well.

**Matching the Cat to the Home:** F.A.C.T. is a nonprofit organization managed entirely by volunteers who are committed to providing the animals in our care with the best possible alternative to their sad life on the streets. We must act in the best interest of our animals at all times, and therefore reserve the right to select the home that best meets the current and long-term needs of each of our adoptable animals.

All persons living in the household are encouraged to be involved in the selection of the pet. If the adopter is single and living at home with parents, one parent must be present at the time of adoption.

No animal will be adopted to persons having an extensive history of losing, giving away, selling, or having animals injured or killed by moving vehicles.

**Foster Homes:** All cats/guinea pigs are in foster homes. We do not have a facility. While they are in their foster homes they are worked with so we can learn a lot about their personality. They will be placed into adoptive homes that fit their needs. To learn about a specific cat, please carefully read the information posted.

**Home Visit:** Prior to finalizing adoption, we bring the cat to the home and conduct a home visit. The purpose of the home visit is to see where the cat may be spending the rest of their life, as well as see how the cat does with any animals and children in the home. If the adoption counselor/foster parent and potential adopter agree that the cat is a good match for the home, the adoption will be finalized. The adoption fee must be paid at the time of adoption.

**Veterinary Information:** At the time of adoption, you will be emailed a link to an adoption folder for your newly adopted pet. In that folder, you will find tips and other helpful information about transitioning your pet, diet recommendations and more. In addition, you will find their rabies certificate and a summary of the veterinary care they received. If you have any questions about what was done, please reach out via email.

F.A.C.T. makes every effort to ensure that the animal you adopt is healthy. We do this by having each pet examined by a veterinarian prior to adoption.

F.A.C.T. will disclose any and all medical conditions and/or behavioral issues detected while in our care. F.A.C.T. cannot guarantee or make any warranties regarding the health, behavior, or temperament of the cat(s).

All of our cats have already been:

- Spayed or neutered
- Vaccinated (FVRCP and Rabies)
- Treated for fleas and ear mites
- Dewormed
- Tested for FeLV (Feline Leukemia) and FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus)
- Microchipped

Our adoption fees do not cover the average cost of our rescues. We always provide any necessary medical care for the cats and kittens we take in, such as surgery for injuries or congenital problems, x-rays, blood panels, fecal tests, and treatment for upper respiratory infections and viruses.

Once you've adopted a new pet into your family, all veterinary expenses are your responsibility for the life of your pet. We highly recommend setting up an appointment within two weeks of adoption to get your new pet established with your veterinary office.

**Post-Adoption Concerns:** If your cat is having a difficult time settling in, develops a snuffle, won't eat, or anything else that concerns you in the first two weeks after adoption, please contact us via email immediately. We are happy to help in any way, including bringing the cat to our vet and providing any medication needed. If, for any reason, you are unable to keep your adopted cat, please contact us. Our foster cats **must** be returned to us.

Occasionally, a pet may not show symptoms of an illness until after adoption, as many illnesses have an incubation period of 7-21 days. This is completely unavoidable and occurs not only in shelter/rescue type settings, but also with pet stores, breeders, and any environment where there are a number of animals present at any given time. If this happens and you would like our assistance, please contact us via email right away.

Sheltered, homeless animals are not always perfect in every way. They may need extra time to adjust or have unforeseen behavioral or medical issues. While we strive for successful placement by providing as healthy, well-socialized animals as possible, we can only provide history in which we have received, collected, or observed from volunteers during their stay with us.

**Indoor Only:** F.A.C.T. adopts to indoor-only homes. Occasionally, we will have an adult cat who absolutely requires an indoor/outdoor home. In such a case, we will make every attempt to ensure that the environment into which the cat is placed is as safe as possible.

**Landlord Approval:** F.A.C.T. will require proof that you are allowed to have pets if you live in rental housing or in a condominium with animal restrictions in the by-laws. To avoid delays in adopting your pet, please upload a copy of your Lease along with your application.

**Single Kittens** – Kittens learn valuable life lessons from their own species. We do not adopt single kittens under 6 months into the care of an adopter who does not already have another young, interactive feline. [Learn More — Single Kitten Syndrome.](#)

**Spay/Neuter** – All resident pets in the adoptive home must be spayed/neutered prior to adoption.

**Age/Employment** – We adopt to adults over 21 years of age who are fully employed and/or financially prepared to make a lifetime commitment to a pet. At some point, significant veterinary costs may be involved with any pet, which is why we ask that people adopt only if they are adults, have seriously evaluated the meaning of a twenty year commitment, and are financially able to bear the cost of future emergencies.

**Declawing:** There is a wealth of statistical information indicating that cats frequently suffer long term problems after being surgically declawed. These problems include, but are not limited to, aggressive biting and eliminating outside the litter box. If, after serious consideration, you feel you MUST have a declawed cat, please adopt a cat that is already declawed. Thankfully, it is not common for us to have declawed cats relinquished to us, but when we do, our Petfinder ad for the cat will indicate he or she is declawed with a “paw” icon. Read more about declawing at [www.declawing.com](http://www.declawing.com).

**Other Pets:** We do our best to place each cat into a home where the family bond can be successful. To that end, our adoption process includes specific advice regarding introduction to other pets. It is possible that the cat in whom you are interested, may not be deemed an appropriate match for your furry family. If that is the case, please understand the decision was made in the best interest of the cat and your other pets.

**Lifetime Commitment:** F.A.C.T. expects that when you adopt a pet you have made a decision to care for that pet for its entire life. A cat may be a 20 year commitment. Please think through this extremely important decision before you decide to adopt. Pets are part of the family. A responsible pet owner/guardian makes life decisions to include their pet.