



ADOPTION CONTRACT AGREEMENT

Member of the Family: An indoor cat can live up to 20 years of age. Are you prepared to make a lifetime commitment to your cat? A cat is not a toy but a member of the family to be treated with love and respect. Your cat should share the house with you and not be locked in a basement, cage or another room separating the cat from the rest of the family.

Reason: A cat who is not a member of the family will not be happy and may become withdrawn, mean or destructive. You should expect some mess and inconvenience with a cat as you would with a child.

Costs of Care, Including Vet Care: A single cat will cost about \$400 per year in food, litter, and basic medical care. This does not include any health-related emergencies that may arise. Your cat will need an annual checkup, including FVRCP and rabies shots. Cats are subject to common ailments that will periodically need to be treated by a vet. You are responsible for medical bills once you adopt the cat.

Reason: The FVRCP booster prevents your cat from catching distemper and other ailments (many of them fatal). Rabies shots are required by law even for indoor cats, and prevent your cat from contracting rabies and passing it on to humans should the cat come into contact with a rabid animal. Expect your cat to catch an occasional cold or ear infection. Expect medical needs to increase as your cat gets older. Recommendation: Pet insurance has become a reasonable alternative. The annual cost typically is \$200 or less to insure your new family member. Even with the deductible the cost is much easier to bear.

Giving Up Your Cat. If you can not keep the cat you adopted from us, you must return the cat to us. DO NOT take the cat to a shelter.

Reason: We want our cats to be cared for all their lives. Keep your contract after adopting your cat. If you ever have to give up the cat, call us at (248) 733-3554. Do not for any reason take your cat to an animal shelter. If you have a friend or family member who wants to adopt your cat, please notify us so we can process their application so as to have their information on file.

Children: If you have a child under 6 years of age, you must adopt a cat or kitten who is 6 months or older.

Reason: Younger kittens are more fragile and can be accidentally injured by a small child. Also, young kittens have not learned yet to retract their claws. While a scratch is typically no more harmful than falling down on a playground and scraping a knee, young children who are scratched may develop an unnecessary fear of a kitten after being scratched. And, the kitten, in turn, may become fearful of a child who cries after being scratched. Children and pets make wonderful companions for one another when supervised and matched up appropriately.

Single Cat: It is recommended that kittens under 10 months of age be adopted in pairs unless there is a young cat already in the home.

Reason: A kitten by itself will get lonely and may become depressed and/or destructive. Kittens and young cats need feline companionship.

Indoor Cats. You must keep the cat indoors at all times, unless the cat is on a leash and accompanied by you.

Reason: The average life span of a cat is 15-20 years when kept indoors and given proper care. The average life span of a cat who wanders outside is two years. Cats are killed and injured by cars every day on neighborhood streets as well as major roads. Other dangers include contracting diseases from other cats, getting hurt in fights with other animals, and being poisoned or abused by people who find it annoying for cats to wander onto their property.

Declawing. Our cats may not be declawed. If you want a declawed cat, ask if we have one that is already declawed.

Reason: Declawing is cruel, physically and psychologically, and completely unnecessary. A cat's claws function as part of its fingers and toes. Declawing means amputating the last joint of a cat's toes. The surgery and recovery is extremely painful. Declawing impedes a cat's ability to walk and play as well as protect and groom themselves. Psychologically, cats need to claw as part of their grooming ritual and many cats knead with their claws to express comfort. Declawed cats tend to have higher levels of anxiety because they feel defenseless and often become biters. They also tend to react to stress by acting out such as by not using their litter boxes. Frequent clipping of the tip of the claw can help alleviate damage due to scratching. A volunteer or your vet can show you how to properly clip claws. Give your cat plenty of appropriate things to scratch and gently correct your cat if it scratches the wrong things. A little patience, positive reinforcement, and consistency in training alleviates the vast majority of scratching problems.

Home Visit. We will come to your home to visit the cat after adoption to make sure you and the cat are happy. We occasionally do a pre-adoption home visit if questions arise relating to the compatibility of a certain cat with a particular home environment.

Reason: We want our cats placed in loving homes. The vast majority of people provide excellent homes for their pets. However, there are some people who do not provide a suitable home or proper care. And, occasionally personality conflicts arise between a certain cat and a certain person. If this occurs, and is not resolved in a few weeks, it's best to return the cat and discuss the possibility of adopting another cat.

Please feel free to contact The Ferndale Cat Shelter at (248) 733-3554 or email admin@ferndalecatshelter.org with any questions or concerns.

ADOPTER'S AGREEMENT

- Cat/kitten will visit veterinarian within 72 hrs of arrival in order to verify health. The Ferndale Cat Shelter does not guarantee the health of any animals adopted. The cat/kitten has been checked by a vet, and received basic medical care along with spay/neutering, applicable shots, and basic blood work – but will need to be started immediately on a program of preventative vet care. Please be aware that the cats/kittens available for adoption are rescue animals and, as such, have often been exposed to a variety of diseases. Like human illnesses, these disorders can have an incubation period of up to several weeks. If the cat/kitten you adopt shows signs of illness at any point, please take it to the vet for treatment. _____ (initial)
- (If the cat/kitten is not spayed/neutered at time of adoption) I agree that I will have the cat/kitten spayed/neutered and microchipped by six months of age. _____ (initial)
- A \$100 security deposit will be retained until proof of neutering.
- I understand that the microchip contact information will permanently remain in the name of The Ferndale Cat Shelter (or agent thereof). _____ (initial)
- Cat/kitten will receive booster shots and yearly veterinary examination. _____ (initial)
- I have been advised that an FIV/Feline Leukemia test is inconclusive on kittens under 6 months of age, and therefore I agree to retest said cat at 6 months of age. _____ (initial)
- I agree that the cat/kitten is being adopted for myself and will not be sold to any pet store, research laboratory, or animal shelter under any circumstance. Ferndale Cat Shelter shall be contacted if ownership of cat/kitten must be transferred. _____ (initial)
- I agree that the cat/kitten will not be allowed outdoors without proper supervision. When taking my cat outdoors, it will be on a secure harness and wear proper ID. _____ (initial)
- I agree that I will not declaw the cat/kitten at any time. _____ (initial)
- I agree to care for the cat/kitten in a humane manner and be a responsible animal guardian. This includes supplying adequate food, water, shelter, attention, and medical care. _____ (initial)
- I agree that if at any point I can not keep the cat/kitten, I will return him/her to the Ferndale Cat Shelter without requesting a fee. _____ (initial)
- I understand and agree that The Ferndale Cat Shelter makes no guarantees about the animal's temperament and is not responsible for future damages or injuries caused by the animal. _____ (initial)
- I give The Ferndale Cat Shelter. the right to inspect my home or call my home at any reasonable time, without notice, to assure that the cat/kitten is being properly treated and cared for. _____ (initial)
- I agree the cat/kitten may be removed from my home if any conditions of the adoption contract have been violated or, if in the opinion of The Ferndale Cat Shelter the environment is unsafe. _____ (initial)
- I agree to keep The Ferndale Cat Shelter informed of my current home address and phone number. _____ (initial)
- All adoption fees are non-refundable _____ (initial)

I hereby acknowledge receipt from The Ferndale Cat Shelter of the kittens named _____ and release The Ferndale Cat Shelter from any liability for damage or injury hereafter caused by said cat/kitten. If needed, I agree to return said cat/kitten to The Ferndale Cat Shelter making no charges of any nature for licensing, care, food, or other services. I agree to pay reasonable attorney fees and court expenses if The Ferndale Cat Shelter must bring legal action against me to enforce this contract. I shall personally be responsible for the humane care and control of the cat/kitten. A representative of The Ferndale Cat Shelter shall be allowed to see the cat under the conditions set forth above.

I have read and understand this adoption contract and agree to abide by all its terms.

Signature: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____