



**Ferndale**  
CAT SHELTER

## ADOPTION CONTRACT AGREEMENT

**Member of the Family:** An indoor cat can live up to 20 years of age and beyond. Are you prepared to make a lifetime commitment to your cat? A cat is not disposable 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**Reason:** A cat who is not a member of the family will not be happy and may become withdrawn, mean or destructive.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 \$600 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 illnesses such as Rhinotracheitis, Calici, Chlamydia and Panleukopenia as well as 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 \$300 or less to insure your new family member. Even with the deductible the cost is much easier to bear.

**Giving Up Your Cat:** Your cat is microchipped primarily in your name, with Ferndale Cat Shelter ("FCS") as the secondary contact on record. **If at any time in the future you cannot continue to provide the best care for your cat, please do not abandon, give or sell him/her to another person, company, organization, medical research, pound or animal shelter. You must contact the Ferndale Cat Shelter to do one of the following: 1. Return cat/kitten to Ferndale Cat Shelter, whereas you agree to give FCS up to three (3) days' notice prior to returning him/her, in order for Ferndale Cat Shelter to secure a spot for him/her. 2. Obtain approval from FCS to transfer the ownership of the cat to a friend or relative. We must approve the new adopter who will go through the same adoption process as any new applicant.**

**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, email us at [admin@ferndalecatshelter.org](mailto:admin@ferndalecatshelter.org). 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 six (6) years of age, we recommend that you adopt a cat or kitten who is six (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. Scratches can also become infected! 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.



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**Single Cat:** It is strongly recommended that kittens under 6 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 to live happily with their humans.

**Indoor Cats:** You must keep the cat indoors at all times unless the cat is on a harness and leash, accompanied by you, and equipped with proper identification.

**Reason:** The average lifespan of a cat is 15-20 years when kept indoors and given proper care. The average lifespan 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 should **NEVER** be declawed. If you would like to adopt a declawed cat please ask if we have options for an adoptable, declawed cat, in our care.

**Reason:** Declawing is cruel, physically and psychologically, and completely unnecessary. A cat's claws function as part of its fingers and toes, therefore declawing amputates 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 alleviate the vast majority of scratching problems.

**Home Visit:** We conduct a pre-adoption home visit (virtually or in person) to ensure the compatibility of the potential adoptee(s) with your family members, home environment, and safety of your home. At that time, we will address questions which arise relating to the care and adoption of the cat(s)/kitten(s). Shortly after the adoption is complete, we will check in with you to be sure the transition is going well for both the adoptee(s) and their family.

**Reason:** Our goal is to place our cats in loving, forever homes. The vast majority of people provide excellent homes for their pets, however, there are instances where a suitable home or proper care is not given to the cat(s)/kitten(s). Also, it is possible for unforeseen personality conflicts to arise between cats and humans. It may take time for the cat(s)/kitten(s) to warm up to the humans, but if no resolution is made after two (2) weeks, it's best to return the cat and discuss the possibility of adopting another cat.

Please feel free to contact Ferndale Cat Shelter at [admin@ferndalecatshelter.org](mailto:admin@ferndalecatshelter.org) with any questions or concerns.



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**ADOPTER'S AGREEMENT**

Adopter Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cat/Kitten(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

The cat/kitten should visit veterinarian within 72 hours 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, they 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)

I understand and agree that The Ferndale Cat Shelter makes no guarantees about the animal's health and/or temperament and is not responsible for future damages or injuries caused by the animal.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

Because vets advise that a FIV/Feline Leukemia test is inconclusive on kittens under six (6) months of age, we recommend testing of all kittens at or shortly after six (6) months of age or if symptoms present.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

I understand that the microchip contact information will be registered primarily in my name with The Ferndale Cat Shelter (or agent thereof) as a secondary contact.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

I agree to keep The Ferndale Cat Shelter informed of my current home address and phone number so that the cat/kittens microchip information may be updated.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

I agree to see that the cat/kitten will receive booster shots and a yearly veterinary examination.

\_\_\_\_\_ (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)



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## ADOPTER'S AGREEMENT

Adopter Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cat/Kitten(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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)

Should the cat/kitten be declawed and incur physical or psychological damage, the adopter agrees to pay any and all related medical expenses for that animal's lifetime or a \$3,000 fee. Adopter agrees that declawing is a clear breach of contract. The information will be shared with other rescue organizations, and offender will be placed on a "Do Not Adopt" list.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

I agree that the cat/kitten will not be euthanized except in the case of terminal illness or injury, or old age accompanied by pain and suffering. If this is the case, the euthanasia must be performed by a licensed veterinarian.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

I agree that if at any point I cannot keep the cat/kitten, I will return him/her to the Ferndale Cat Shelter without requesting a fee.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

I agree to make an immediate and serious effort to find the cat if it becomes lost, including, but not limited to, posting to social media, distributing fliers, contacting the Ferndale Cat Shelter, contacting local animal control, and posting to For the Love of Louie Facebook page.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

I give The Ferndale Cat Shelter permission to visit my home or call my home at any reasonable time, if the Ferndale Cat Shelter has information leading it to believe that the cat/kitten is not being properly treated and cared for.

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

I agree the cat/kitten must be returned to the Ferndale Cat Shelter 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)

**All adoption fees are non-refundable.**

\_\_\_\_\_ (initial)



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## ADOPTER'S AGREEMENT

Adopter Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cat/Kitten(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby acknowledge receipt from The Ferndale Cat Shelter of the cats/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 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_