



Opt to Adopt an Adult Cat



Adopt an adult cat and you know exactly who you are getting in term of looks and personality

Do you want a lap cat? An independent cat that is happy being alone when you're not at home? A small cat or a large cat? A cat that gets along with dogs? People often choose a kitten because they believe they can "mold" the kitten's personality to be whatever they want. **THIS IS A MYTH!** Cats are notoriously independent and resistant to "molding." Some cats resent this attempt to dismiss their individuality so much that they will avoid you at all costs. Despite your best efforts, that adorable kitten you have fallen in love with may grow up to be an aloof loner, not the lap cat you wanted. This is the cat you'll be spending the next 15-20 years with, not that cute kitten.



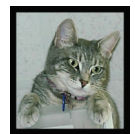
A Mature Cat is the ultimate low-maintenance Pet

Caring for a kitten can be like caring for a baby. Kittens need constant attention and supervision. A mature cat more easily fits into a busy lifestyle. Or better yet— *adopt two adult cats so that they can keep each other company when you are busy or away from home.* Ask one of our staff members for help in choosing a great pair (we have many siblings who form very tight life-long bonds)!



An adult cat is often a better choice if you are adding a second cat to your household

People often think that their resident cat will adjust better to a kitten than another adult cat. This may be true in some cases, but some cats will never adjust to an energetic kitten (especially one that is receiving so much of the family's attention!). Another possibility is that the kitten may actually grow up to be a cat that doesn't tolerate other cats. S.A.R.A. has cats available for adoption that have proven their ability to live with other cats and dogs.



Adult cats are calmer and less destructive than kittens

Are you away from home all day? It will take a kitten a while to learn not to climb the drapes or sharpen its claws on your sofa and stereo speakers when you're not around to supervise. An adult cat already has learned to use a scratching post and will spend most of the day sleeping (the average adult cat sleeps 16 hours a day!) if you are not home. Like to sleep at night? Kittens don't ~ not for the first 6 months at least ~ and are inclined to entertain themselves enthusiastically, noisily, and often destructively while you are trying to get your rest. An adult cat is more likely to spend the night curled up at the foot of your bed.



Adult cats are often a better choice for households with young children

If you have small children and your heart is set of adopting a kitten, are you prepared to supervise your child's interactions with the kitten *at all times*? Kittens are fragile, and very vulnerable to injury. In addition, a kitten that is over-handled, or handled roughly may bite and/or scratch without warning. A "teenage" or adult cat that is accustomed to children is more tolerant, knows what to expect from children and will give warning or leave when she's had enough. S.A.R.A. follows the national guidelines and does not adopt kittens under 6 months of age to households with children under 6 years old.



Adult cats do better as "only cats"

If you are looking to adopt just one cat and have no other cats at home, please consider an adult. Kittens need the companionship and socialization provided by another cat in the household. If you are a "one cat household," we have cats that LOVE people but are happiest being the only cat in the house ~ ask us to help you find of these cats that NEED you.



Senior cats (8 years and older) make wonderful companions

People often pass up older adult cats, thinking that they won't live very long. Keep in mind that cats live and remain active to age 20 and beyond, especially indoor cats! A cat is a long-term commitment, and a kitten is a *very* long-term commitment! Senior cats make calm, loyal companions, often have many good years left, and deserve to have a comfortable place to spend their golden years.



Most importantly you are saving a life!

Kittens are always in demand and usually find homes. Adult cats are more at risk, simply because they are not kittens. Many of the adults that you see at S.A.R.A.'s Treasures are last year's kittens, who were abandoned or surrendered because they were no long babies, so they became inconvenient. There may also be cats who were rescued as kittens but were unfortunate enough to be born the wrong color or breed and have spent most of their lives here.

Adopt an Adult, get a True Friend, Save a Life!

Adapted from the Seattle Animal Shelter's "Reasons to Adopt an Adult Cat" brochure.

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