

CAT ADOPTION EBOOK

# AM I READY FOR A CAT?

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES TO PREPARE YOU  
FOR CAT ADOPTION



# CAT ADOPTION EBOOK DETAILS

Cat adoption should be taken seriously so our feline friends find their forever homes. This ebook will help you determine if you're ready for a cat and prepare you for cat adoption.



**Goal 1:** Establish why you want a cat and learn why cats are rehomed so the same doesn't happen to your cat.

**Goal 2:** Understand cat happiness needs so you're prepared.

**Goal 3:** Ask the shelter questions to find the right cat for you.

**Goal 4:** Plan next steps to welcome your new family member.

## **By the end of this ebook you will...**

- Understand why it's important that cats find forever homes
- Know how to keep cats happy indoors
- Plan and prepare for a successful adoption
- Welcome your new feline friend home

# WHY DO I WANT TO ADOPT A CAT?

Use the spaces below to brainstorm ideas. Understanding why you want to adopt a cat will help you determine if you are ready.

These sections will also help you find the right cat for you.

WHY DO CATS MAKE ME HAPPY?

HOW CAN I MAKE THIS CAT'S LIFE BETTER?

WHAT DO I WANT TO LEARN ABOUT CATS?

# REASONS CATS ARE SURRENDERED AND REHOMED

**55%**

PET-RELATED

The most common are aggression, destruction, and health problems.

**19%**

FAMILY-RELATED

The most common are family health troubles and allergies.

**14%**

HOUSING-RELATED

The most common are landlord and not enough space.

**7%**

COST-RELATED

The owner could not afford the costs of having a pet.

**4%**

OTHER

Other reasons not specified.

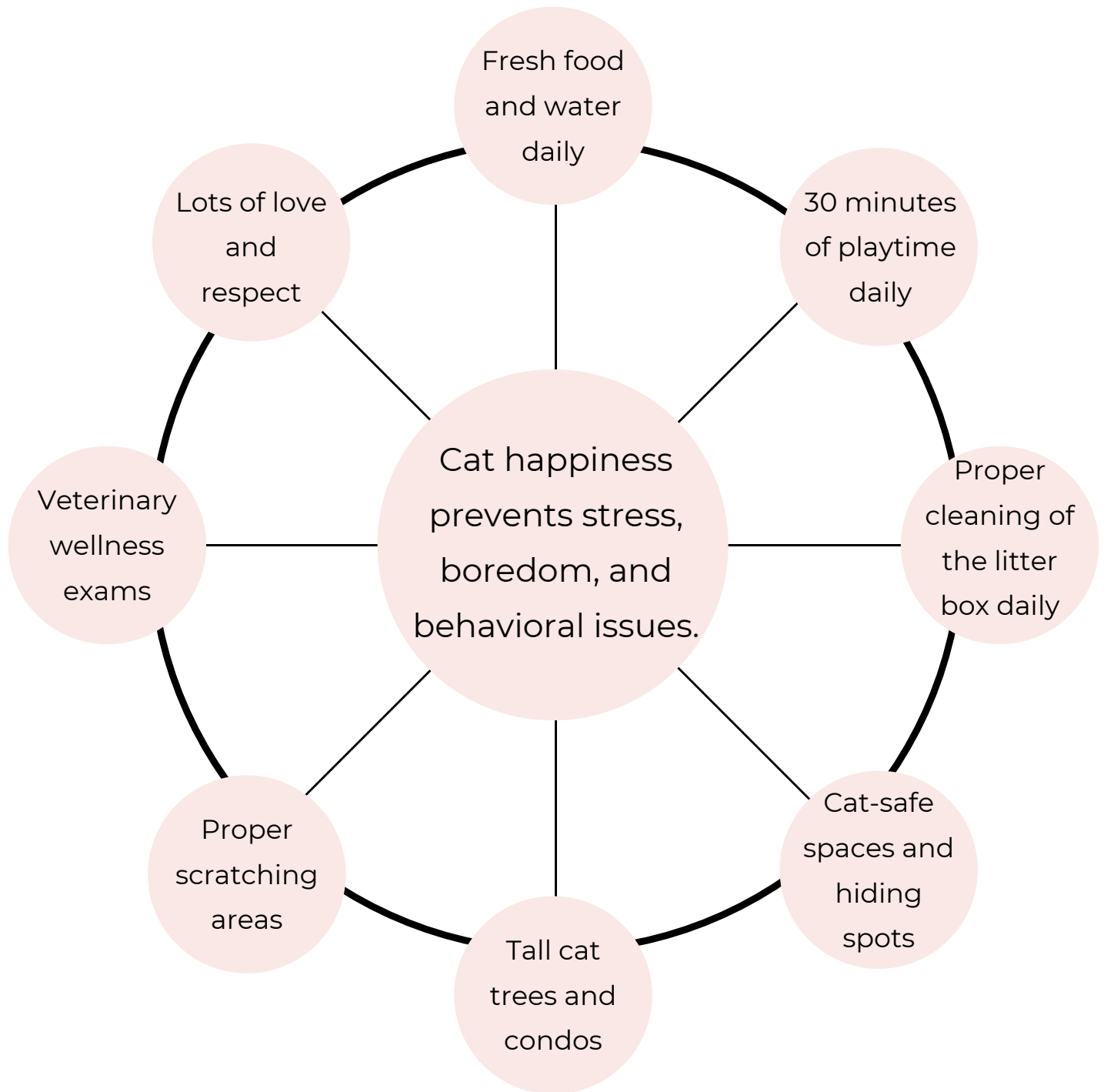
**2015**

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PUBLISHING

[Click here for report.](#)

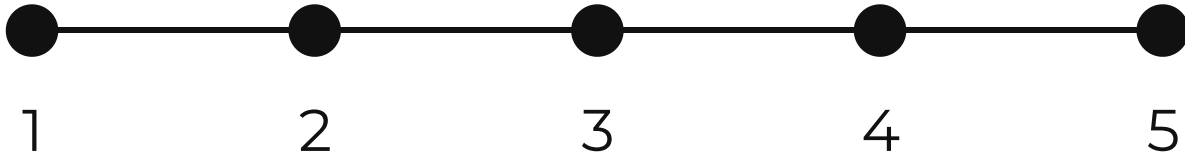
# CAT HAPPINESS NEEDS

Adopting cats saves lives. But only if those cats find their forever homes. Approximately 1,658,025 animals were relinquished and transferred to animal shelters in 2018.



*Before adopting a cat, it's important to realize that this animal comes with big responsibility.*

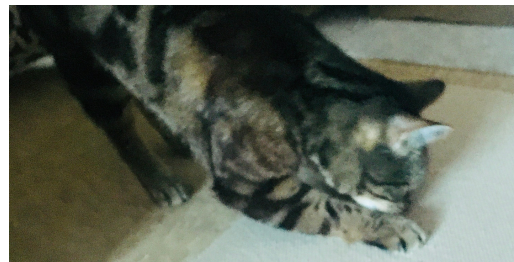
# 5 FACTS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT CATS



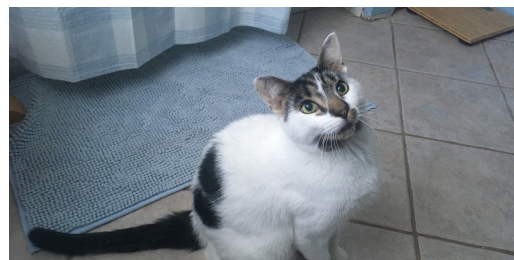
**1** Cats are territorial creatures. They see your home as their territory.



**2** Scratching is a natural behavior in all cats. It's a stress reliever.



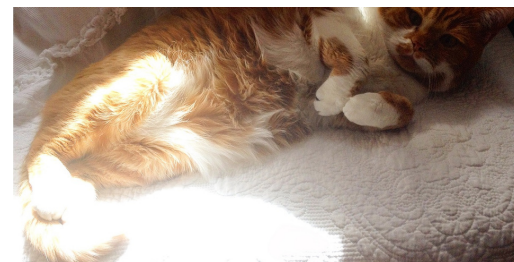
**3** Most cats don't like to be picked up. They prefer to have all paws on a stable surface.



**4** Cats are creatures of habit and thrive on routine. They get stressed very easily.



**5** AAFCO does not approve cat food. We must educate ourselves to provide the best diet.



# DAILY CAT HAPPINESS CHECKLIST

## FRESH FOOD AND WATER

It is unsanitary to leave food out all day. Exposure to oxygen turns fats rancid, and exposure to moisture can inhibit mold and bacteria growth. Food and water dishes must be washed and replenished after each meal.

## CLEAN LITTER BOX

Cats require a clean bathroom, just like you. Daily scooping and weekly cleaning is ideal. A clean litter box will help prevent behavioral issues, health issues, stress, and fighting among cats.

## PLAYTIME

Provide at least 30 minutes of daily playtime broken up into multiple sessions. Playing is healthy exercise, mental stimulation, and a great bonding experience. Playing with toys keeps cats happy and stress-free.

## RESPECT

Studies show that cats prefer human interaction to other stimuli such as toys and food. However, it must be done on their terms. Respect your cat's privacy, and do not force interaction. Cats need time and patience to warm up to their new environment.

# CAT HAPPINESS SUPPLIES

## PRIMARY GOALS

1. Cats need to climb, scratch, perch, rest, and play. Tall cat trees, scratching posts, and condos are perfect for this.
2. Cats get bored easily so it is best to have multiple toys available on rotation.
3. Clean supplies are absolutely necessary. Cats are sensitive to chemicals. Plastic traps bacteria, even with regular washing.

## CAT SUPPLIES CHECKLIST

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tall cat tree or condo - \$50-200             | <input type="checkbox"/> Large litter mat - \$10-20                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scratching post or pad - \$30-100             | <input type="checkbox"/> Stainless steel food and water bowls - \$6-15    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable beds - \$40                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate cat food - \$75-150/month            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toys - \$5-20                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy cat treats - \$8-14/month                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stainless steel litter box - \$40             | <input type="checkbox"/> Cat carrier - \$20-40                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Metal litter scoop - \$12                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary wellness exam and labs - \$200 yearly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Naturally clumping cat litter - \$22-28/month | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency fund - \$2,000                         |

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*These costs are approximate to give you an idea of what to expect when you adopt a cat. Keep in mind, cats are part of the family and deserve the best care and supplies possible.*



# RESOURCES

FURTHER EDUCATION ON CAT HAPPINESS

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## CAT DECLAWING

Never declaw your cat! Declawing cats is a serious amputation of the toe. It is painful and can lead to behavior issues. [CLICK HERE.](#)



## CAT FOOD MATTERS

More than half the cats in the US are overweight or obese. Obesity brings on serious health risks. [CLICK HERE.](#)



## CAT ROUTINES

Routine and predictability keeps cats happy indoors. You'll need specific daily routines for your cat. [CLICK HERE.](#)



## CAT SUPPLIES

Proper cat supplies make your cat feel at home and are needed for cat happiness. [CLICK HERE.](#)

These resources will give you the education you need to keep your cat happy indoors. Please use these in your decision-making process.

# QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU ADOPT

Ask these questions to get to know your cat before you adopt. Use the blank spaces to fill in answers and any questions that fit your specific lifestyle.

|  |                                    |  |   |   |
|--|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Is the cat socialized?                 | What is the cat's medical history? | How is the cat with people?<br>Children? | How is the cat with other animals?            | What is the cat's behavior?<br>Personality? |
|  |                                    |  |   |   |
| What are the cat's likes and dislikes? | Why was the cat surrendered ?      | Do you recommend adopting a friend?      | Can I spend time with the cat in the shelter? | Does the cat have any special needs?        |
|  |                                    |  |   |   |
|  |                                    |  |   |   |
|  |                                    |  |   |   |



# AM I READY FOR A CAT QUIZ

Does my home allow cats?

YES

NO

Are my family members clear of cat allergies?

YES

NO

Do I understand what cats need to be happy?

YES

NO

Can I dedicate enough time per day to my cat?

YES

NO

Can I afford to spend around \$300 per month on my cat? Do I have at least \$2k in emergency funds?

YES

NO

Do I have a dedicated space in my home for my cat's happiness supplies?

YES

NO

# CAT ADOPTION WORKSHEET

IF YOU ANSWERED "NO" TO ANY OF THE PREVIOUS QUESTIONS, FILL OUT THIS SHEET TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE BEFORE YOU ADOPT

BREAK DOWN YOUR BIG GOAL INTO MINI GOALS

MINI GOAL 1

MINI GOAL 2

MINI GOAL 3

ACTION STEPS TO  
ACHIEVE MINI  
GOAL 1

ACTION STEPS TO  
ACHIEVE MINI  
GOAL 2

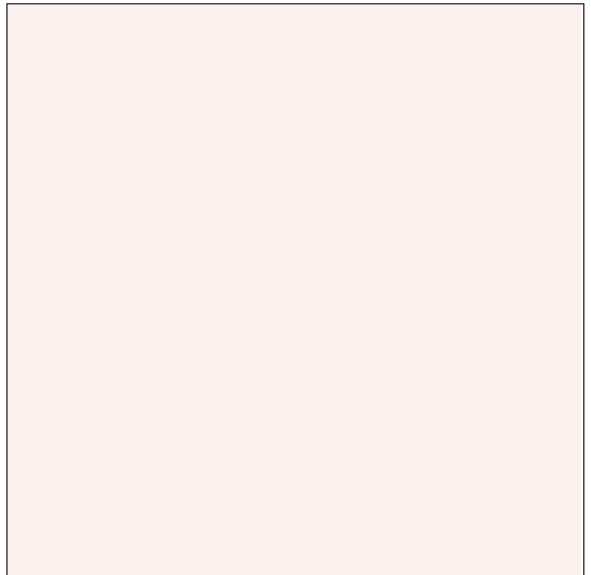
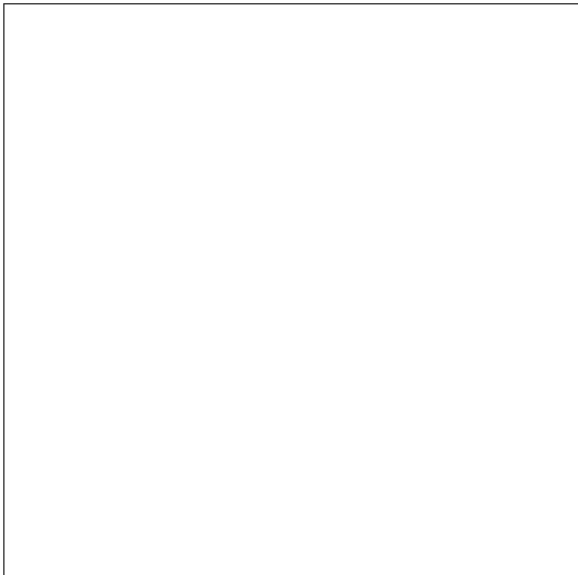
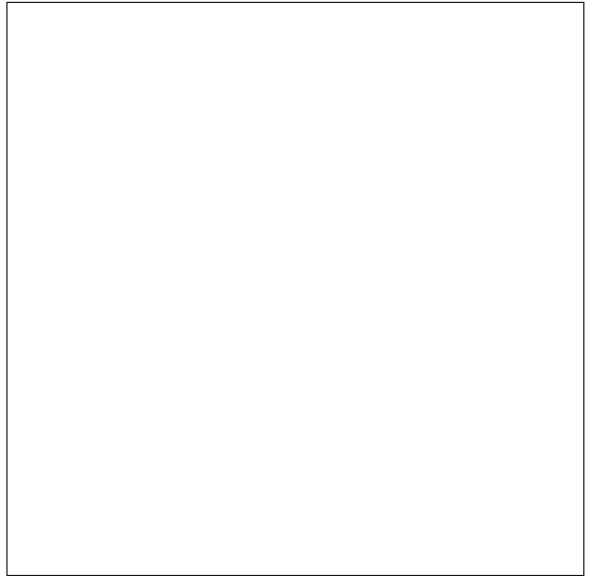
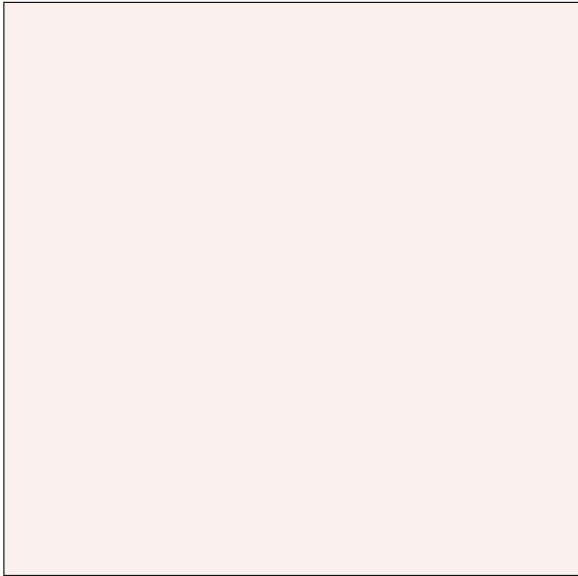
ACTION STEPS TO  
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GOAL 3

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# BRAINSTORM WORKSHEET



## NOTES

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# WEEKLY PLANNER WORKSHEET

| DAY |  |
|-----|--|
| MON |  |
| TUE |  |
| WED |  |
| THU |  |
| FRI |  |
| SAT |  |
| SUN |  |

NOTES

# WHAT'S NEXT?

Congratulations on your new furry family member! The resources in this ebook will help you keep your cat happy and enjoy life with you.

Keeping cats happy indoors takes hard work and dedication. But it's a wonderful and very rewarding experience!

Use this ebook to continue through your cat happiness journey.

## HELP YOUR CAT FEEL AT HOME

- [How to introduce yourself to a cat](#)
- [How to cat-proof your home](#)
- [How to introduce cats to cats properly](#)
- [How to help cats adjust to a new home](#)
- [Cat enrichment guide](#)

