ADOPTING A CAT FROM DANAHER ANIMAL HOME

Staff are here to ensure the animals find homes which suit their needs. Most animals in our care have not had the best start in life and may require special care or training. We will assess your experience and assist you in finding the right pet for your home.

Although we want our animals to start their new life with you as quickly as possible, our re-homing process can take a few weeks from start to finish. The process is as follows: –

- **Fill in our Adoption questionnaire form in Reception.**
- **Have a look around our cattery and choose a cat that is best suited to your level of experience.**
- **Inform Reception of the cat you are interested in. They will radio a member of staff who will open the pen and introduce you to the cat. You will have the opportunity to spend time with them, ask questions and make sure it is a suitable match. If everything goes well, you can place a Temporary Reserve on our cat.**
    - **Every person who lives permanently in the house where the cat will be staying will need to spend a reasonable amount of time with our cat before a Full Reserve can be placed.**
- **Once a Full Reserve has been placed on the cat, you will be put forward for a home check. Everyone adopting an animal through the centre is subject to a home check under RSPCA Policy, to ensure your home is suitable for your prospective new cat. A home checker will be in touch with you to arrange a time that is convenient to visit you. This can take up to 7-10 days after the Full Reserve has been placed, however we do try to complete this process as quickly as possible.**
- **The home checker will contact the centre and advise us of their visit. The home checker will advise if your house is ready, or we may be advised that work is needed to be carried out before your home is 'cat-proof', or it might be that the home is not suitable for the cat in question. The centre will contact you to discuss any points raised by the home checker if necessary or to arrange collection of your new pet.**

PLEASE NOTE: You may not be able to collect until the cat has been neutered and medically signed off by our vet, if they have been on treatment during their time at the centre. We do allow some animals to be re-homed on treatment, but this is looked at on a case by case basis.

- **When you come to collect your cat, you will need to bring a cat carrier with you to ensure you are able to transport your new pet home safely. We do sell them at the centre and the profit made comes back directly to this centre, to benefit the animals here.**

If you already have cats at home, we recommend introducing your new pet slowly. It can take up to six weeks for them to get used to each other. It would be beneficial to keep them in a separate room when they first arrive so they can settle in on their own initially. Let one cat have the run of the house at a time for a few days so they can get used to each other's scent without actually seeing each other. Let them out together at feeding time so they have a distraction whilst they are in the same room. You should expect some hissing and spitting when they are first introduced, but this should calm down as the cats become used to each other. It takes some cats longer than others to accept their new house mates, but as long as you give each cat the chance to adjust, they should learn to live with each other.

When you get back from the centre, don't let your cat go outside. They will need to be kept indoors for at least one month whilst they adjust to their new surroundings. Make sure that they cannot climb out of windows and that doors are kept closed and secure. The first time you let them outside, try to do it in the morning, before they have been fed. This will give them all day to explore before it gets dark and they will not stray too far away from food. Ensure that your cat is wearing a snap-apart collar with an ID tag so that they can be easily returned home in the event that they get lost.