The Cat Adoption Process at Centre County PAWS

Volunteer __________________________ Contact __________________________

Thank you for your interest in adopting a cat or kitten from Centre County PAWS. It usually takes between three and five days for us to complete the follow up on an application. Please be aware that our staff is all volunteer, and delays may occur. This flyer details what our volunteers do as part of the follow up process. If you have questions at any time, please contact the volunteer handling your application (above).

We have asked what type of animal you are looking for (cat or kitten) and where the animal will spend its days and nights. PAWS will not adopt out a cat that will be exclusively kept outdoors, and indoor cats cannot exclusively live in a basement unless that basement is finished and part of the occupied area of the home. We reserve the right to make a home visit to determine if the living conditions are appropriate.

We will not confirm your employment status. If you are student, we will discuss your plans for your pet after graduation. All adopters should be aware that owning a pet is an added expense, far beyond the $65 adoption donation. Estimated costs (food, litter, vet care, etc.) for owning an indoor cat with an average life span of 16 years are $385 to $810 for the first year (for a kitten that needs to be spayed or neutered), and $315 to $580 each subsequent year, for a life time total of $5,110 to $9,510 (from www.petplace.com). A medical emergency can easily run over $500, and most veterinarians in this area expect payment at the time of service.

If you rent, we will contact your landlord to find out if you are allowed to have a cat, and how many cats you are permitted to own. If your landlord tells us that you are not permitted to have pets, we will not place a cat with you. If you are required to pay a pet deposit, we will ask to see proof that the deposit has been paid.

If you live with other people, we want to be sure that the decision to adopt a pet is shared by the others in your household. We ask if you have children or grandchildren who visit often because some of our cats will not do well in a house with children. If you live with your parents for part of the year, we will contact them.

If you own or have previously owned any cats or dogs, we will call the veterinarian for a reference. Please make sure that you provide the correct name of the person who has vetted the animal(s). A rabies vaccination is required (PA State Law) for all animals over 3 months of age. If your pet(s) is more than 3 months out of date for a rabies vaccination, we will not place a cat with you; bringing the animal up to date after the application has been made does not “count”. If a pet (dog or cat) is not spayed or neutered, we will not approve your application unless the animal is part of a responsible breeding program or the surgery would endanger its health (veterinary documentation must be provided). We will ask your veterinarian if you meet their requirements for appropriate and adequate health care for your current animals. If you have had an excessive number of pets killed in accidents or a pet that has recently died from a contagious disease, we will ask for more detailed information.

The responsibility questions on the back allow us to find out more about your attitudes toward cat ownership. All PAWS animals that are not altered before adoption must be spayed or neutered and you will sign a separate sterilization agreement. If you are not willing to do this, we will not place a cat with you. If you plan to declaw the cat, be aware that not all of our cats are candidates for that surgery. A cat must be under ten pounds and younger than two years, and have no other health or behavioral concerns, to be considered a candidate for declawing surgery. We often have declawed cats available and if you want a declawed cat let the volunteers know. Please be honest in listing the behaviors that would cause you to return a cat to us. Some of our adult cats do have “issues” and we want to make the best match possible.

We will contact personal two references. This is done to obtain an independent assessment that you will be a responsible pet owner and provide the appropriate care for an animal. The best references are people who have known you for some time and have seen you interact with animals. If you live with relatives or roommates, we will also contact them to make sure that they agree to have your cat live with them.