

**To ensure successful adoptions for cats and people alike, we adopt according to specific policies. These are explained in more detail below.**

## **Age of Adopters**

Adopters must be 18 years or older and present a valid ID.

## **First-Come, First-Serve**

All adoption applications submitted online are reviewed on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you are interested in one of our cats available for adoption, please contact us ASAP to arrange a home visit prior to adoption.

## **Rescue Back-Up**

All of our cats and kittens come with one promise and that's RBU which is rescue back up. Giving up your cat/kitten is never an easy decision. From moving home and relationship break-ups to changes in the family and even bereavements, there are many reasons why owners have to re-home their cat/kitten. While some situations are unavoidable, there are some circumstances where you're just no longer able to keep your feline friend. No matter how desperate you are, please don't dump or abandon your pet or even advertise them for free on social media. This can be traumatic for your cat/kitten and can even be dangerous. We are only a small rescue, but we will do everything we can to help and nurture each cat and kitten that comes into our care. This however, doesn't mean that because you want to go on holiday that the cat can be signed back into our care, or that your having a baby. All these thoughts and processes should be carried out before thinking of adopting any animal. If you feel as though you may no longer be able to care for your cat or kitten, please get in contact with us on: [homing@wisteriacatrescue.org](mailto:homing@wisteriacatrescue.org)

## **Kitten Adoptions**

Kittens must be spayed/neutered before they can go home with their adopter. Typically, kittens will be about eight weeks old before they are ready for spay/neuter surgery. Kittens age 5 weeks and older may be available for pre-adoption. To pre-adopt a kitten, you must contact us first to discuss whether you are a good match via our online adoption form. Pre-adopted kittens remain in foster care until they're old enough and healthy enough for spay/neuter surgery. Once they have been spayed/neutered, the kitten can go home with the person who pre-adopted them.

## **FIV-positive Cats**

Wisteria Cat Rescue sometimes has a small number of FIV-positive cats available for adoption. The Feline Immunodeficiency Virus compromises a cat's immune system, but FIV-positive cats can live relatively long and healthy lives. FIV is not contagious to other species and is not easily spread between cats. In most cases, FIV-positive cats can live with FIV-negative cats.

## **FeLV-positive Cats**

Wisteria Cat Rescue occasionally has FeLV-positive cats available for adoption. We believe that cats who are positive for the Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) can make excellent companions and deserve opportunities for adoption. However, FeLV weakens a cat's immune system, and most have a shortened life span (research suggests that over 80% of FeLV-positive cats do not live beyond 4 years after diagnosis). Because FeLV can be transmitted to other cats in the home, CAT only adopts FeLV-positive cats to single-cat homes or homes with other FeLV-positive cats.

## **Renting with Cats**

Since we want to make lifelong placements for our cats, we ask that adopters make sure their landlord allows cats and to pay any pet deposits in advance of adopting.

## **Cats as Gifts**

Please note that adopters (including at least one adult with whom the cat will live) must meet the adoption requirements for their chosen cat/kitten prior to adoption; choosing a cat is a very personal decision and plays an important role in making a lifelong commitment to a new family member, cats are not one off gifts.

## **Returning a Cat / Adoption Refunds**

Our goal is to make loving, lifetime matches for you and the cat you adopted. But we recognise that sometimes things don't go as planned. If you are experiencing difficulties with a newly adopted cat, please contact us right away for assistance.

## **Veterinary Support**

The cat/kitten's welfare is our priority and we will work with you to resolve any concerns or questions you have in respect of the cat/kitten after adoption. If you have any worries about the cat/kittens welfare, please contact us for support.

Wisteria Cat Rescue strongly advises the adopter to arrange appropriate insurance cover against risks and the costs of veterinary treatment.

## **Criminal Convictions**

The adopter must confirm that to the best of their knowledge and belief no person residing in their household, or who will care for the cat/kitten, is disqualified from keeping animals or has had a deprivation order made under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and/or has an unspent conviction for offences relating to the mistreatment of animals. The adopter must agree to comply with all relevant regulations, legislation and laws concerning the welfare, control, responsible ownership and protection of animals including without limitation the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and Codes of Practice issued in England and Wales under the 2006 Act and to ensure that anyone with the temporary care of the cat/kitten also complies. The welfare needs of the cat/kitten means providing for their health, happiness and taking measures to ensure that the cat/kitten's health is maintained, in that he/she is properly housed, fed, watered, socialised and exercised and receives appropriate veterinary care, including vaccination, regular worming and flea treatment, as appropriate to the species.

## **Declawing**

Wisteria Cat Rescue asks adopters not to declaw adopted cats. We can provide further information about the detriments of declawing, humane alternatives, how to properly trim nails and how to train a cat to use a scratching post.

The adopter must agree to not irresponsibly sell or part with the animal.

We do not offer refunds.

**Wisteria Cat Rescue reserves the right to decline an adoption. Wisteria Cat Rescue does not allow or disallow adoptions based on an individual's race, gender, colour, religion, national origin, ancestry, age or disability.**