

Why Should I Adopt an Older Cat? Common Questions and Answers:



Will I be adopting someone else's problems?

Some reasons why older cats lose their homes are:

- death of a guardian
- not enough time for the cat
- change in work schedule
- new baby
- need to move to a place where cats are not allowed
- kids going off to college
- allergies
- change in "lifestyle"

Most cases are not a direct cause of the cat but usually due to circumstances of the person or family.

What advantages do older cats have vs. kittens/younger cats?

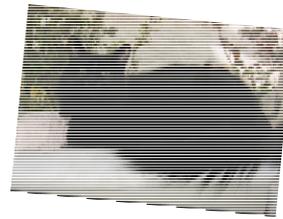
- Older cats generally have had some training, either in obedience or house manners. Due to the confusion and upset of being in a temporary fostering environment, sometimes they may "forget" this, and a refresher lesson might be needed.
- Older cats have learned what "no" means and how to behave in a home.
- They have been "socialized" and know what it takes to be part of the home and to get along with family members and other pets.
- Older cats generally have a lower energy level than kittens and are ideal for working families and seniors.
- Finally, a potential adopter is able to assess the size and temperament of the older cat as there is no guessing on how big they will grow or what their personality will be!

Don't older cats cost more in vet bills?

When adopting a cat, whether it be a kitten, a young cat or senior, there will always be medical expenses. There are no guarantees that when you adopt a younger cat the vet bills will be lower, and being realistic about this will help you plan accordingly. Good nutrition, exercise and preventive care are all important factors in keeping your cat healthy.

Grief...how do I handle it?

Grief is a very personal matter. Some people feel that giving a home to an older cat is a tribute to their former cat and actually eases their pain. Saving a cat from euthanasia through adoption enables people to focus on the positives and to deal better with loss. Consider also that there are never any guarantees about length of life with any cat. Quality of time together can matter a great deal more than quantity.



How long will it take for an older cat to settle into a routine with me?

Each cat is an individual and comes with a unique set of experiences and varying circumstances, so it is hard to predict how much time is required to make an adjustment. With care, patience, and a kind, understanding, loving attitude, just about any cat will come around.

Lastly, what kind of support can an adopter expect from NARF?

We will guide you carefully through any adjustment period that may be needed, and provide resources as we are able.

