



# What to Know when Adopting a Cat.



## Shopping Checklist:

- It may be a good idea to wait until you select your new pet before you begin shopping for supplies. For example, some items, such as food and water bowl or collars, depends upon the size of the pet you will be adopting.
- Also, be sure to find out which food your pet was eating in the shelter or foster home so that you can provide the same in the beginning, again to ease the transition. After the pet has settled in, talk with your veterinarian about switching to the food of your choice.

## Necessary Items for Cats:

- Food and water bowls
- Food (canned and/or dry)
- Litter box and scooper
- Kitty litter -pellets are good, have better odor control. **Cats must have clean litter boxes, or they may go elsewhere, scoop daily.**
- Collar- always a breakaway one.

- ID tag with your phone number- **A microchip comes with your adoption costs, please register the Microchip Registration number after they are Spayed or Neutered by the Veterinarian with your Spay/Neuter coupon at adoption.**
- Hard plastic cat carrier- check Facebook Marketplace- wash with bleach and let air dry before use
- Nail clippers for Cats
- Feline toothbrush and toothpaste
- Brush or comb (depends on your cat's coat length and type)
- Super-absorbent paper towels
- Sponge and scrub brush
- Non-toxic cleanser
- Enzymatic odor neutralizer
- Variety of toys (toys including catnip are a favorite, feather toys too)

### **Time Considerations:**

- Pets need to be fed two to three times a day, more often in the case of kittens, and need a constant supply of fresh water.
- A responsible pet parent should spend at least one hour per day giving direct attention to his or her pet. This may include training, exercising, grooming, and playing or, with cats, may just be lap time on the couch.
- A pet with an abundance of energy needs more time to exercise and interactive toys to keep them entertained.
- Pets with long coats need 20 minutes a day of grooming/brushing to prevent matting.
- Pets with certain medical conditions may need additional attention, including specifically timed injections in the case of diabetic animals.
- Remember that adopted pets may need additional bonding and reassurance time in the early weeks.

## **Pet Costs:**

- More likely than not, the adopting agency will charge a fee to help defray the cost of taking in unwanted or lost animals. The adoption fee you pay will be a tiny fraction of the money you will spend over the life of your pet.

## **Some expenses are mandatory for all pets, including:**

- Food (Long Hair food and Indoor cat food is available too)
- Teeth cleaning Treats for cats (Tartar control treats are available)
- Routine veterinary care
- Vaccines, Flea medication
- Licensing according to local regulations
- **Breakaway** Collars and identification tags
- Kitty litter and box
- Basic grooming equipment and supplies.

## **Other expenditures that may not be required but are highly recommended:**

- Permanent identification, such as a microchip- Performed by a Veterinarian
- Additional grooming supplies or professional grooming (depending on your new pet's needs)
- A bed and toys
- A crate or carrier- Check Facebook marketplace- wash before using
- Unexpected costs: Accidents and illness can result in costly emergency veterinary care. Recovery tools for finding a missing pet can include posters and rewards.
- A pet with special physical or behavioral challenges may require specialized professional support to overcome any obstacles these issues present.

## My Cat's Sick:

- My cat is vomiting: It could be stress, or a reaction to their food. Remove food and let their stomach settle. If it continues past 2 days, call your veterinarian.
- Long hair cats do best with pet food for long haired cats to prevent fur ball vomiting.
- My cat has diarrhea, it could be stress of a new environment or a viral bug, if it does not pass after 2 days, call your veterinarian.
- My cat has goopy eyes: it is most likely an eye infection, contact your veterinarian for care.
- My cat has blood in its stool. It could be passing something it ate if it continues past 2 days or if it is very severe, contact your Veterinarian immediately. Take a stool sample with you to the vet.
- My cat or Kitten- common in kittens, has worms in its stool. Get a Liquid dewormer from Walmart, Amazon, Petco, PetValu. If it does not stop as per directions, contact your veterinarian.

## Spay/Neuter your Pet and Microchip

- **When you adopt your pet with AWSJC, you will receive a spay/neuter coupon to use at a local veterinarian. This coupon also includes your new pets Microchipping.** A microchip allows a Veterinarian to scan a found pet if ever lost and then found.
- **Please make sure to register your pets Microchip number once you get home and update the registration if you move or a phone number changes.**

## Local Veterinarians to call are:

- Apple Tree Animal Clinic (304) 725-8840
- Hillside Veterinary Hospital (304) 728-2203
- Jefferson Animal Hospital (304) 725-0428
- Ranson Animal Hospital (304) 724-5055
- Shenandoah Veterinary Hospital (304) 263-2131

**DISCLAIMER:** This is for informational purposes only. This is not intended as any medical advice nor are we in any way affiliated or endorsing any Veterinarians, Vendors or Products listed in this document.

## Emergency Veterinary Care

If your pet experiences a medical emergency after normal business hours, please reach out to an Emergency Veterinarian for assistance. You can call them to discuss your case and they can advise if you need an Emergency visit or if it can wait to see your veterinarian during regular business hours.

**An emergency to seek care for may be a bad cut on a pet, injured by a car, bleeding from the rectum, non-stop vomiting, digestion of a deadly item or chemical, etc.**

- Valley Veterinary **Emergency** & Referral Center- Winchester (540) 662-7811
- VCA **Emergency** Critical Care- Leesburg- (703) 777-5755



*Your pet is being sent home with a blanket donated from our volunteers with Wrapped in Love.*

<http://www.wil4u.com>

**WIL MISSION:** To promote the hand making of dog and cat blankets to be donated directly to rescue groups from WIL membership. The primary focus is to donate blankets as a group" to 501c3 dog rescue groups, along with other crafted items when possible.

**DISCLAIMER:** This is for informational purposes only. This is not intended as any medical advice nor are we in any way affiliated or endorsing any Veterinarians, Vendors or Products listed in this document.