

SAVE A STRAY - ADOPTION GUIDELINES

Welcome to Save a Stray We are a small but active foster-based cat rescue in Thorpe Hesley, Rotherham and our cats are cared for in several home locations around South Yorkshire. We focus on helping cats and kittens living rough on the street with no chance of safety or a home. Our aim is to rescue, rehabilitate and find good safe homes for cats who would otherwise have no-one to care for them. Our adoption guidelines have been created to offer best advice to adopters and to ensure a successful adoption and happy homing.

1 CAT ADOPTION CRITERIA

These guidelines outline the terms and conditions of adoption and the responsibilities of the owner/adopters.

1a) Pre Adoption Criteria

-  Applications for adult cats are open to anyone in the UK, preferably those living locally.
-  Applicants must be over 18 and must be the guardian of the cat.
-  We do not accept adoption applications as gifts for someone else. The applicant will be the provider and take full responsibility.
-  Kitten applicants are only open to people living within a 40 minute drive of Sheffield where they will need to return for neutering at 4 months.
-  Our preference is for homes with gardens in a safe environment. We will only consider indoor homes for cats who have been advertised as needing an indoor home.
-  We will re-home to applicants in rented accommodation with a written agreement from your landlord.
-  We expect all adopters to take out a good lifetime insurance policy to cover unexpected accidents and illness post adoption.
-  We do not support harness wearing/ lead walking for cats in public areas.

1b) Pre adoption Criteria of Kittens

-  It's important that young kittens in litters are adopted with a sibling and we will always try to pair them with their bonded littermate.
-  We will typically only allow adoption of a single kitten where there is an odd number in a litter or if we have a single kitten in our care. In this instance, you must have an existing vaccinated kitten or young cat in the home already.
-  Occasionally we may have a single mature kitten who can be adopted alone without the need for an existing kitten.

2. CAT ADOPTION GUIDELINES

2.1. Purpose of Adoption

The adopter(s) agree to adopt the cat solely as a companion pet for themselves and/or their immediate family.

The cat must not be used for breeding, commercial purposes, or any form of exploitation under any circumstances.

2.2. Transfer of Ownership

Ownership of the cat transfers to the adopter(s) subject to the terms of this agreement.

The adopter(s) agree not to sell, give away, loan, or otherwise rehome the cat to any third party.

2.3. Care and Welfare Responsibilities

The adopter(s) agree to provide:

-  A clean, safe, and secure home environment with adequate shelter.
-  A balanced and nutritious diet with constant access to fresh drinking water.
-  Appropriate veterinary care, including routine health checks, vaccinations, flea and worm treatments, and emergency treatment where required.
-  Adequate mental stimulation, physical enrichment, and companionship appropriate to the cat's age and needs.

The health, safety, and welfare of the cat must always be the primary consideration.

2.4. Microchipping

It is a legal requirement that all cats are microchipped and ownership details kept up to date.

All cats are microchipped whilst in our care. Ownership will be transferred to the adopter within the week of adoption. It is the new owner's responsibility to keep their contact details accurately stored with the microchip company in case of loss.

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[2.6. Adoption Fees](#)

Although adoption fees cover a fraction of the medical and care costs for each cat, it provides the essential funding we need to rescue the next animal in need.

All our cats will be health checked, with medical treatments undertaken at vets recommendations, neutered, microchipped, flead and wormed.

These are the base prices for our cats. Each cat will show its price on the website.

Single Adult	£100	Pair of Adults	£175
Single Adult (With vaccines)	£150	Pair of Adults (With vaccines)	£250
Single Kitten (under 6 months)	£120	Pair of Kittens	£200
Single Kitten (With vaccines)	£170	Pair of Kittens (With vaccines)	£275

[2.7. Neutering](#)

Cats can breed from 4 months of age and so should not mix with any indoor or outdoor un-neutered cats after this age. Un-neutered cats must not go outside.

 For Cats already Neutered: No further action is needed.

 For Un-neutered Cats: It is mandatory that all cats are neutered and on some occasions, due to age or health reasons, it has not been possible to neuter a cat prior to adoption. This will be conducted once the right weight, age or health condition has been met. The neutering cost is included with the adoption fee only when performed at one of our chosen vets. We will be in touch to confirm the neutering procedure where adopters will take the cat to our vets on the morning of neutering, and collect it later in the afternoon. Cats are to be kept calm and warm post neutering.

Where adopters wish to use their own vet for neutering, this is absolutely fine. However, the cost will be borne solely by the adopter, and proof of neutering must be forwarded to us at completion. Please note: we cannot pay fees at other vets.

[2.8 Insurance](#)

Cats leave us with 4 weeks free insurance provided by Petplan. Please read what is covered during this period in the documents provided at the time of adoption. Owners must renew this policy within the 4 weeks to continue with this coverage or a new policy will be required.

We recommend that all cats are insured preferably with a lifetime policy. Please read through what is provided with the cover to understand what is included and its limitations.

[2.9 Health Care \(inc flea and worm\)](#)

All our cats and kittens are health checked at the earliest opportunity when in our care. Each will receive a quality flea and worm regime. Each product will last for a set amount of time, so please familiarise yourself with the product used and ensure continuity of treatments to maintain healthcare.

[2.10 Vaccinations](#)

All cats must be vaccinated to prevent illness and diseases. The adopters vet will give a booster at the time of the annual dental and health check.

We strive to ensure all our cats leave us fully vaccinated; however, due to the changing types of vaccines, this isn't always possible. 1st and 2nd vaccines must be the same brand. The cat's profile will state if the cat or kitten has been vaccinated and for those, it will be the adopters responsibility to start or complete vaccination.

The adopter(s) agree to:

-  Arrange and complete the cat's vaccination schedule as advised by their veterinary surgeon if necessary.
-  Follow veterinary guidance regarding flea, worm, and parasite treatments.
-  Seek veterinary care promptly if the cat becomes ill or injured.

[2.11 Surrender or returning a cat post adoption](#)

There is a lot of advice behaviour and management advice on recommended websites like Cats Protection and International Cat Care (see below).

If adopters are in a situation that they are no longer able to keep ownership of the cat, they are to contact SAS at the first sign of this becoming potential. We will assist all we can in the cat's best interest. We exist purely using foster homes for cats in our care. Therefore, any return would need to be managed when capacity allows.

We will always support a cat who we have homed.

Adoption fees are non refundable

[2.12 Adoption Compliance and Right to Reclaim](#)

The adopter(s) understand that:

-  SAS reserves the right to reclaim the cat if any term of this agreement is breached or if the cat's welfare is at risk.
-  The adopter(s) must notify SAS promptly of any significant changes to their contact details or living circumstances.

[2.13 Liability](#)

The adopter(s) acknowledge that:

-  SAS makes no representations or warranties regarding the cat's temperament or future behaviour.
-  SAS will not be held liable for any injury, damage, or loss caused by the cat following adoption.
-  The adopter(s) agree to indemnify and hold SAS harmless from any such claims.

[2.14 Data Protection](#)

Personal data provided by the adopter(s) will be held and used by SAS solely for purposes connected with the adoption and ongoing welfare of the cat.

[2.15 Cats going missing](#)

There is a lot of information available online about how to find lost cats and the steps owners are to take.

Notify the microchip company immediately to register missing cats and owners are to contact SAS within the first 36 hours so we can offer assistance.

2.16 Welfare-Based Interpretation

This agreement shall be interpreted and applied at all times in a manner that prioritises the health, safety, and welfare of the cat.

Agreement Confirmation

By signing this document, the adopter(s) confirm that:

- 🐾 All information provided is accurate.
- 🐾 They have read, understood, and agree to abide by all terms and conditions outlined in this agreement.
- 🐾 They understand that failure to comply with this agreement may result in SAS reclaiming the cat.

🐾 [Consider sponsoring a stray cat with us - just like your cat once was unwanted - there are many more out there that need us still. You can read more about our sponsorship on our website here.](#)

**** SPONSOR A CAT ****

When you adopt a homeless cat its an amazing feeling
We hope you will consider continuing to support Save a Stray so we can help more

3. HOW TO BEGIN YOUR ADOPTION PROCESS

3.1 Read understand and accept the Cat Adoption Guidelines

3.2 Complete a Cat Enquiry Form (you will find this on each cats profile on our website)

3.3 Enter the name of a specific cat, or leave this field blank for any suitable match. If you don't see the right cat today, please check back soon as our website is updated frequently with new arrivals. You can put KITTENS or FARM CAT if that is what you are looking for.

3.4 An SAS volunteer will receive and review your application.

- If its a good match - we will be in touch within a few days of submission
- If we receive other suitable applications for your chosen cat we will work through until we find the right match for the cat. Should you not be right for that one, we may have another one suitable for you and will contact you to let you know.
- If the cat you have chosen has already received a suitable application, or there have been lots of enquiries - we will try to let everyone know they haven't been successful this time. (we do try but as volunteers, we can get overloaded sometimes). If you don't receive a response, please send an email to ask, or keep checking the website and see if there is another cat you may be interested in.

3.5 We will ask for photos and/or a video of your home, and where necessary, we will conduct a home check. This is all to ensure that we find the right match for the cat and help you find the right match too.

3.6 If the match appears to be a good fit, we will connect you with the foster carer to schedule a meet-and-greet and ensure everyone is happy to proceed.

3.7 Adoption will happen when it's the right time for both you and the cat and from then on - it's happy happy homing !! We cannot hold onto cats for very long once the adoption is agreed. The foster space is ready to accept a new cat into their safe space.

4. PREPARING FOR YOUR NEW ARRIVAL

Here's a little guide to ensure a safe arrival and settling in period for your new family members. Please read and do ask anything you are unsure about - we all want this to go the best it can do.

Items we recommend you should have at home BEFORE collecting your new friend.

1) A trusted, secure and sturdy basket that's the right size. Please DO NOT use a fabric/zipped carrier or a flimsy plastic one. If you have time to order a new one online, we only recommend using the wire carriers from MDC (<https://www.mdcexports.co.uk/product/carrying-cat-basket/>) and having a cover as needed. Cats easily escape unsuitable carriers, unfortunately we have seen it happen many times, and yes they can undue some zips!!

- SAFE STURDY PET CARRIER

- CAT COVER

2) Wet and dry food as recommended by fosterer

3) Litter as recommended by fosterer

4) 2 litter trays with scoop and bags for disposal

5) Pot or plastic food and litter bowls (seperate bowls) not the doubles

6) Climbing cat tree with platforms. (Avoid rope hammocks)

7) Moving toys (not the lazer lights as they torment and frustrate cats)

8) Cat Calming plug in (eg Feliway)

9) Igloo fluffy bed (or one they can snuggle in under for safety if they need it)

 Set up a safe and comfy spare room. This is where they should be settled for the first few days while they adjust to their move. Ensure windows are kept closed here and throughout the house. Cats and kittens will jump out of very tiny windows you wouldn't think they can climb out of - They can.

 Keep them confined to this one room for a few days before steadily introducing to other areas. Resist the urge to let them explore the house immediately to reduce overwhelm and potential toileting issues.

 Introductions to other pets need to be slow and steady. Now is a good time to do scent swapping before introducing via sight and then a controlled and monitored meeting.

 Keep their food, water and litter in the room where they will be kept initially and keep the litter tray away from the food and bed.

 Please continue to feed the same diet the fosterer has provided initially. Transition to new foods gradually to eliminate upset tummies.

 Litter also is best kept the same type - some like wood, some clay, some paper but initially stick with what they know, and if you are going to change - introduce the other tray as well as the original - this way you will see which they prefer.

 Install a Feliway plug diffuser or use a Pet Remedy spray to release calming pheromones.

 Remove plug in air fresheners, salt lamps and toxic candles. Cats are very sensitive to these scents and they can upset them throughout the house.

 For pairs of cats and kittens, be sure to have two of everything so they won't have to share, including litter trays.

 Igloo beds are good for kittens and nervous cats, they like somewhere they can hide in initially and it makes them feel safe. Fleecy blankets are good to snuggle under too.

🐾 Calm music is good to help relax anxious cats. Set up a smart speaker and find a playlist on Spotify or Youtube. There is a nice one called Peaceful Piano.

🐾 Spend some time with them, but don't intrude in their space - if they chose to hide - let them hide. If they chose to come to you - welcome them calmly. No shouting or screaming noises or loud bangs.

🐾 Look out for your microchip and insurance documents in the post and check your information is correct. Be sure to renew your insurance before the 4 weeks finishes.

🐾 Drop us a message if you need to know what they should be using or eating or anything you are concerned about. We are happy to help.