

# CAT ADOPTION SURVEY



First name:	Last name:	Date:
Address:		Apt. #
City:	State:	Zip code:
Phone number(s):		Email:

1	I would consider my household to be like...	A library	Middle of the road	A carnival	
2	I am comfortable with a cat that likes to play "chase my ankles" and similar games...	NO	Somewhat	YES	
3	I want my cat to interact with guests that come into my house...	Little of the time	Some of the time	All of the time	
4	How do you feel about a boisterous cat that gets into everything?	Love them but rather not live with them	Depends on what they get into	Fine by me	
5	My cat needs to be able to adjust to new situations quickly...	Not important	Somewhat	YES	
6	I want my cat to love being with children...	Not important	Somewhat	YES	Children do not often come to my home
7	My cat needs to be able to be alone...	9 or more hours per day	4 to 8 hours per day	Less than 4 hours per day	
8	When I'm at home, I want my cat to be by my side or in my lap...	Little of the time	Some of the time	All of the time	
9	I want my cat to enjoy being held...	Little of the time	Some of the time	All of the time	
10	I need my cat to get along with... (circle all that applies)				Dogs    Birds Cats    Other
11	My cat will be...	Inside only	Inside & Outside	Outside only	
12	I have owned/lived with a cat before...	NO		YES	Currently
13	I prefer my cat to be talkative...	NO		YES	Doesn't matter
14	I want my cat to play with toys...	Little of the time	Some of the time	Often	
15	I want my cat to be active...	Not very active	Some of the time	Yes, very	
17	It's most important to me that my cat: (fill in the blank)				

**HSWM OFFICE USE ONLY!** Recommended color match:    purple    orange    green



Who will primarily be responsible for the care of the pet? \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact (when unable to reach you): Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_

Are you 18 years or older?     **Yes**     **No**

Are you a member of any branch in the U.S. Military (active, reserve, or veteran)?     **Yes**     **No**

What type of home do you live in?     **House**     **Mobile Home**     **Apartment**     **Duplex**     **Condo**     **Other**

Do you **own or rent** your home? Landord's name & Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet History: List pets **currently owned**, including small critters.

Animal Type (dog, cat, etc)	Animal Name	Breed	Age	Gender	Spayed or Neutered? (yes or no)	Kept indoors? Or kept outdoors?	How long owned?	When was his/her last vet visit?

Name of current veterinarian or clinic: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Under whose name and address are the vet records kept? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about Humane Society of West Michigan? \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle any topics you'd like to discuss with your adoption counselor:

- |                   |                     |             |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Litter Box Issues | Indoor vs. Outdoor  | Declawing   |
| Biting            | Intro to Other Pets | Training    |
| Vaccines          | Preventative Care   | Animal Laws |
| Cats and Children | Escaping            | Other       |

**Certifications, Authorizations, Releases, and Understandings**

1. I certify that all statements on this Adoption Application are made truthfully and without evasion, and further understand and agree that such statements may be investigated and if found to be false will be sufficient reason for not being allowed to adopt from Humane Society of West Michigan.
2. I authorize Humane Society of West Michigan to contact my reference(s), my veterinarian(s) and anyone else Humane Society of West Michigan deems necessary to confirm how I have cared for my companion animals and/or how I am likely to care for any companion animal(s) I adopt from Humane Society of West Michigan.
3. I authorize my veterinarian(s) to release to Humane Society of West Michigan all veterinary records of the animals I own or have owned.
4. I understand that, with proper care, cats can live 15 years or more and I am prepared to commit myself to the long-term care and protection of any animal I adopt from Humane Society of West Michigan.
5. I understand that animal(s) I adopt from Humane Society of West Michigan may require medical treatment beyond that provided by Humane Society of West Michigan prior to my taking the animal(s) home. Such additional veterinary medical treatment could be costly. I acknowledge that Humane Society of West Michigan is not responsible for providing any additional treatment or the incurring cost of any additional veterinary treatment provided by veterinarians I select to provide such treatment.
6. I will not sell or give away animal(s) I adopt from Humane Society West Michigan. As long as I live in the service area of Humane Society of West Michigan, I agree to return the animal(s) to Humane Society of West Michigan in the event I cannot keep or choose not to keep the animal(s). If I move from the area, I agree to take the animal(s) to the local humane society or comparable local animal welfare organization. You may return the animal to HSWM within 1 year of adoption at no charge. During that time, you may exchange for another animal. After 1 year, you will be assessed a transfer of care fee of \$30 and will not be offered an exchange.

7. I understand that the handling of animals that I may meet may place me in a hazardous situation and could result in injury to me or my personal property. On behalf of myself, my heirs, personal representatives and assigns, I hereby release, discharge, indemnify and hold harmless Humane Society of West Michigan and its directors, employees, and agents from any and all claims, causes of action and demands of any nature, whether known or unknown, arising out of or in connection with my meeting an animal for the purpose of adoption.

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Applicant's Signature

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Date

## COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS TO WATCH FOR IN CATS

### Feline Leukemia

Feline leukemia virus, a retrovirus, is a common infection of cats. It is the cause of more cat deaths directly or indirectly, than any other organism and is widespread in the cat population.

Feline leukemia virus infection (FeLV) can be transmitted in several ways:

1. By the saliva of infected cats contaminating the eye, mouth, and nose membranes of non-infected cats via licking.
2. By passing infected blood to non-infected cats during mating or fighting.
3. From mother to fetuses (developing kittens) during pregnancy.

There is no effective treatment for FeLV. 85% of cats with FeLV infection will die within 3 years of diagnosis. A strictly indoor lifestyle will minimize your cat's exposure to the disease. To ensure as much as possible that we do not place a FeLV positive cat, every cat is tested for this virus before adoption.

### Upper Respiratory Viruses

Sneezing, coughing, nasal congestion, inflamed/watery eyes, loss of appetite, lethargy, and sometimes mouth ulcers are all symptoms of an upper respiratory infection. There are many viruses that can cause these symptoms and sometimes a cat can be infected with more than one virus at a time. All of them are very contagious. Did you know that a cat's sneeze can travel up to four feet? Since these symptoms are caused by viruses, antibiotics are only used when a secondary bacterial infection is suspected. A properly vaccinated cat is protected against some of these viruses. In severe cases, hospitalization with IV fluids can be required.

### Feline Distemper (Panleukopenia)

Feline distemper is a very contagious virus that causes fever, vomiting, bloody diarrhea, and commonly results in death. The virus can be transported from cat to cat by toys, bedding, and even our clothing or hands. Proper vaccination and an indoor lifestyle are a cat's best defense against this virus.

### Ear Mites

Ear mites are a common parasite of cats (much less common in dogs) that cause intense itching and large amounts of brown/black debris in the ears. Sometimes the mites can be visible to the naked eye but most of the time are found during a microscopic exam of the debris from the ears. Mites are passed from cat to cat through direct contact. There are many ways to treat ear mites but the most effective medications will be available through a veterinarian.

**THERE ARE RISKS INVOLVED IN ADOPTING A CAT FROM A SHELTER. THE CAT YOU MAY WANT TO ADOPT HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO VIRUSES, PERHAPS BEFORE HE WAS BROUGHT HERE, BUT MOST CERTAINLY AFTER HE ARRIVED.** Humane Society of West Michigan is NOT a pet shop. We receive owned and stray animals and rescue sick, injured and abandoned ones. Very often animals come in with no medical histories.

**REMEMBER, THERE IS SIMPLY NO GUARANTEE THAT THE CAT YOU ADOPT MAY NOT BECOME SERIOUSLY ILL AFTER YOU HAVE TAKEN HIM HOME.** In their incubation stage, viruses are not detectable. Therefore, an adopted animal may look healthy on the day of adoption and begin to show symptoms of his illness a few days later - at your home. Apart from the measures we take in trying to keep shelter animals reasonably healthy, there are no other affordable precautions we can take to prevent your pet from becoming ill after adoption.

**Please read and sign the following STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING:**

I understand that the animal I am interested in adopting may require medical treatment that could result in significant veterinary medical bills. I will not hold Humane Society of West Michigan accountable for the cost of such treatment as the cat may require after adoption.

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Applicant's Signature

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Date