

## **Adoption Meet and Greets – Questions/Topics to Consider – 3 pages total - update 11/1/23**

### **Foster #1:**

I do believe that the hardest parts of having a cat are (potentially) scratching furniture and litter box troubles.

-- Are you aware that cats really like to scratch surfaces? What is your plan for teaching them to scratch in appropriate places? How will you feel if they damage your furniture? I then discuss effective behavior modification - making the furniture an unpleasant place to scratch by using sticky paws tape and placing a scratching post or box right next to it to direct the cat to the right surface. I also point out that some cats like a vertical scratching surface and some prefer a horizontal one and they should observe which one their cat likes the best.

-- What will you do if your kitten does not use the litter box properly? Are you aware that improper use of the litter box always has a cause, and it is usually medical? If it is not medical, are you willing to figure out why the cat is having trouble? Then I discuss the location of the box, types of litter, understanding the cat may be uncomfortable with or afraid of the location of the box or the route it must take to get to the box, etc.

### **Foster #2:**

I always ask: "What does a typical day at your household look like?" I want to know how much my kitten will be alone at the house.

I also ask " What made you choose this kitten?" I want to know if they are shopping by looks or personality. If they are shopping by looks, I really try to convey what this kitten's personality is and what this kitten will need to thrive in a home.

I always make sure to read their application carefully which usually gives an opportunity to talk about their current/past pets. The way they talk about their past pets tells me a lot.

### **Foster #3:**

I always ask about their plan for introducing the kitty to their home/pets/kids. A lot of my questions are based on what they say in the application or the information they offer up. The big thing for me is observation: how are they with the kitties, are they patient and gentle, if they have kids do they communicate clearly with them about how to handle the kittens, etc.

### **Foster #4:**

I like to ask: Where basecamp would be set up?

Location and # of litter boxes?

Will they provide scratching posts (and placed in a good location)?

Of course, the big one - these kitties are INDOOR ONLY!

### **Foster #5:**

Why are you looking to adopt now?

What are you looking for in a kitten? In the cat that the kitten will become?

What appealed to you about this particular kitten?

How will you help your new kitten adjust to your house?

What have your past pets been like? What have they enjoyed/what did you enjoy about them?

If they have another pet: how do you think the pet will react to this new addition? what is the pet's experience with other animals?

If they have another pet: how will you work through the process of introductions with your other pet?

### **Foster #6:**

I ask what they are looking for in a kitty. Do they want a snuggle-bug? A talker?

If they have older kids, I ask who will be the person responsible for caring for the kitty.

Do they have a separate room for the kitty for him/her to decompress? I ask this even if they don't have other pets.

If they have other pets, I ask if those pets have interacted with kittens/cats before. Did the pet get along with the cat? If they have a cat, what will they do if the resident cat and new kitty seriously don't get along.

### **Foster #7:**

I usually have them tell me what they've already written in the application (I feel like it helps to hear them tell their story), so "tell me a little bit about yourselves, where you live and what you do and so forth" would be one question.

"What does a typical week for you and your pet(s) look like"

In some cases, I have asked "do you feel financially comfortable adding another pet to your life right now" but that is a tricky one - you don't want to offend anyone. But I have also not asked it, and then regretted it afterwards, thinking I probably should have...

I try to be really honest w people. "I don't think this kitten will be the best fit for your kids - you will have more fun with a kitten that is a bit braver" and so forth. Sometimes people get so hung up on color, and disregard temperament.

**Foster #8:**

Is the kitten/cat going to be 100% indoors? If they intend to leash train, I probe a bit more and ask if they have researched methods, will they have patience, is it okay if the kitten isn't interested.

What are you looking for in a new furry family member?

- A playmate for an existing pet or kiddo?
- A confident kitten with lots of personality?
- Talkative kitten?
- Cuddly kitten?

How would you introduce a new kitten/cat to existing pets?

- What would you do if the existing pet doesn't like the new cat/kitten?

Has your existing pet been around cats/kittens before? What were the circumstances/how'd it go?

Has your kiddo been around cats/kittens before?

How would you attempt to stop a behavior you don't like?

Are you concerned with the kitten scratching furniture? Do you have cables/plants/things around that the kitten can get into?

Do you plan to ever take the cat/kitten outside?

How would you get the cat/kitten acclimated to your home? Do you have a separate space that you can set up for the cat/kitten?

Ask about previous pets/experience with cats

Do you have a local vet?

If the cat is on meds- Are you comfortable giving meds?