

## Choosing the Perfect Cat or Kitten



If you're ready to care for a cat (or two) for the next 12 or so years, here are some things to consider before choosing your new feline friend

### Age

The playful antics of kittens are hard to resist, but adult cats are better suited to the often clumsy and rough handling of inquisitive toddlers. Kittens also need to be house-trained, but they adapt quickly to new surroundings. Decide whether you want the more mature demeanor (with regular silliness thrown in) of an adult or constant silliness with regular napping thrown in from a kitten. If you work, consider adults, as they need less supervision.

### Number

More than one cat or kitten adds to the fun and gives you a reprieve from being the playmate. Multiple felines are also great if you're out of the house a lot.

### Health

Healthy cats have clear, bright eyes, pink gums, a clean nose and ears, and a smooth, shiny coat. Small black specks on the fur indicate fleas. Check the litter box to make sure the fecal matter is formed, not runny.

### Personality

Look for a feline who's easy-going and responds to you. Kittens should be active, outgoing, and willing to be handled. A feline

who shies away from you might be more suited to a quiet household. Adult cats should be fairly relaxed when handled.

### Looks

Decide if you want long, medium, or short-haired cats. A long coat will require some combing on your part to fight matting.

Regardless of the age or the sex (both male and female cats are equally affectionate) of the cat you choose, keep your cat indoors, and you'll likely have a loving companion for the next 12 to 18 years.

### You May Be The Perfect Cat Owner If You...

Think scratching everything within reach is a sign of intelligence

Think 15 years of caring for a pet does not seem like a lifetime

Look forward to having your ankles rubbed dry by an affectionate, hairy animal after each shower

Don't mind sharing your house with someone who sheds, tracks kitty litter, and throws up hairballs

Don't mind sharing your house with someone who will never clean up after themselves

Don't mind a housemate who will randomly and regularly entertain you with outrageous and silly antics (at their whim, not yours)

Want to take care of someone every day

Want your lap warmed whenever you sit down

Would like to spend your extra money on pet food, toys, veterinary care, kitty litter, and more kitty litter

Want to be welcomed with a soft purr of appreciation

Believe that spaying and neutering pets will help solve the pet overpopulation problem

Can't imagine leaving your devoted pet behind when you move

Want to keep an ID tag on your pets, so they can get back to you no matter what

Enjoy unconditional love and constant companionship.

If you think you have what it takes, then visit us to find the perfect cat or kitten!

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Animal Control & Shelter  
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