

## Finding your new companion

### Step 1: Submit your application form (available on our website)

We will consider your application and contact you if we need a few more details or to invite you to Raystede for a chat. If you do not hear from us, we have everything we need for now, thank you.

### Step 2: Wait for the magic to happen

Once you have registered with us, please keep an eye on our website for new arrivals and contact us if you feel someone might suit your home.

When animals arrive at Raystede, we get to know them through behaviour and medical assessments. Our expert animal care teams carefully use this information alongside your application to see if the match could be a success. Finding the perfect pet can take time. Please be patient; they will be worth the wait.

### Step 3: Visit Raystede

We will invite you to Raystede as soon as we have found any potential matches for your home. We will discuss the animal's background, health and behaviour. This sometimes requires a few visits. You will need to provide photo ID, proof of address, and if applicable, written landlord permission to have a pet in your property.

### Step 4: Take your new pet home

Once we have found your perfect partner, we will book an adoption appointment; our Rehoming Team will talk you through caring for your pet. Your adoption fee will help us continue our work to give animals a better life.

## Peace of mind when adopting

All Raystede cats are:

- Health checked by a vet
- Behaviour assessed
- Vaccinated (first vaccination minimum)
- Treated against fleas and worms
- Neutered/spayed
- Microchipped

You will also receive:

- Four weeks' free Petplan insurance
- A comprehensive adoption pack and appointment with our Rehoming Team to ensure you have everything you need to care for your new cat
- Follow-up advice from our expert Cattery Team

## Thank you for your adoption fee, which will help to cover some of our costs:

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|---|------|
| • Adult cat (7 months and over)         | £85  |
| • Kitten (up to and including 6 months) | £110 |

## Finding a suitable cat

During your adoption journey, you will come across a lot of different cats. We will help you to find a cat suited to your home, lifestyle and experience. Think about the following points:

- **Age** - it may be easier to choose a younger cat or kitten when you are looking to adopt, however have you considered that an older cat might be a better option? Adult cats tend to be more relaxed and used to home life, such as already being litter trained. Senior cats are often over-looked; please consider welcoming an older cat into your home. If you wish to rehome a kitten, someone will have to be at home during the day for the first few months until the kitten is properly settled.
- **Outside space** - most cats need access to a safe outside space away from busy roads. It is natural for cats to hunt, although some do this less than others. Where possible, we will advise on individual cats' tendencies to hunt or wander. We do sometimes rehome cats to indoor homes providing this is in their best interests, for example, due to their health or behaviour. Please be aware that finding a suitable indoor cat will take longer.
- **Pair or single?** - cats are naturally solitary animals, but bonded pairs will be looking for new homes together. Have you considered adopting a pair? Watching them play, sleep and groom together is lovely. Consider the on-going cost of two cats.
- **Previous history** - most cats are looking for new homes due to a change in their owner's circumstances, meaning we can share their history with you. Some cats need extra support as a result of their previous experiences, which may include mistreatment or neglect.
- **Behaviour around children** - we take particular care when rehoming a cat to a family with young children to ensure the safety and happiness of all involved.
- **Behaviour around other animals** - if you have resident animals or lots of cats visiting your garden, we will help you find a cat who is likely to mix well.
- **Settling in** - if you are expecting any considerable changes within the next 3 months, such as a holiday or moving home, please delay your application until you know your home life will not be disrupted. We recommend that you keep your new cat indoors for a minimum of 2 weeks before letting it outside. This is to let it settle and get to know you and its new home. Some cats may take 4+ weeks to fully settle.

When we have found a cat who might suit you, our expert Cattery Team will share the cat's behaviour and medical assessment with you. We will talk you through any medical or support requirements the cat may have and happily give on-going advice where possible.

## Useful websites

International Cat Care – advice about health and behaviour	<a href="http://www.icatcare.org">www.icatcare.org</a>
The Pet Advertising Advisory Group – for advice on buying pets. PAAG promote responsible, legal and ethical pet advertising	<a href="http://www.paag.org.uk">www.paag.org.uk</a>
Code of Practice for the Welfare of Cats – to help you provide the care required under the Animal Welfare Act 2006	<a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-for-the-welfare-of-cats">www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-for-the-welfare-of-cats</a>

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