



AFTER You Adopt...

While cats and kittens are, most often, hearty animals, they are susceptible to injury and illness just as humans are. Before we adopt out an animal to you, we screen for FeLV (feline leukemia) and FIV (feline aids), de-worm with Strongid, and give initial vaccinations. However, as a rescue organization, it is impossible for us to test for and be aware of every health issue that can develop in your cat or that your cat or kitten may have been exposed to in his or her life before being rescued. Many of the animals we adopt out have been rescued from the street and have survived very difficult circumstances before coming to us. All have been treated for any medical issues that we were aware of when they were in our care.

Soon after you adopt, plan on taking your kitten or cat(s) to your own veterinarian as soon as you can schedule an appointment. It is important to establish a relationship with a vet practice early on, even though your cat or kitten is healthy now. If you have an emergency after hours, a vet will not return your call unless you are already an established customer. We can recommend a vet practice, you can research practices online, or you can ask a friend for a recommendation. Very important: take a litter box stool sample, for each animal, to your vet visit so that it can be carefully checked for signs of parasites or other strains of worms.

A veterinarian can answer many medical questions for you and will recognize issues of concern that may need attention. Bring your health records with you. Discuss possible signs of illness to watch for in the future. As mentioned, Animal Project cats/kittens have been given an initial de-wormer, but still ask your vet to check for the presence of worms and intestinal parasites. Cats and kittens may need several treatments in order to be rid of them. Have ears checked for mites. Discuss booster vaccines for kittens and future vaccinations for adults, which some vets no longer recommend for indoor cats. Discuss what foods your vet recommends for the long-term health of your cat.

Some of the early signs of illness to watch for include lack of appetite, poor weight gain, vomiting, swollen or painful abdomen, tiredness, diarrhea, difficulty breathing, wheezing or coughing, pale gums, swollen or red eyes or eye discharge, nasal discharge, and inability to pass urine or stool. Never ignore signs of illness. Don't try to diagnose issues yourself. There is a lot of anecdotal information online, and it can lead you down an incorrect path with tragic results. Please consult a professional immediately when you have any health concerns.

Continuing to take your cat or kitten to the vet for an annual visit is a really important thing to do. Preventive care, as with humans, can save you from high cost and heartbreak in the future if your cat develops a condition or illness that would have been recognized by a veterinarian and could have been treated early on.

While we are here to answer questions that come up after you adopt, we are not veterinarians and establishing a rapport and relationship with your vet practice is a very crucial step to take after you adopt.

Congratulations on your new family member(s)! Thank you for helping us to save a life and for bringing happiness into the life of an animal or animals that, otherwise, would not have had a chance.

We LOVE our adopters! Please... follow us on Instagram / Facebook and tag us in photos of your cats! Please consider leaving a positive Facebook review. If you aren't online, e-mail pictures and updates!

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