



## 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 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 rescued and while they were with us.

After you adopt, plan on taking your kitten or cat(s) to your own veterinarian as soon as you can. It is important to establish a relationship with a vet practice early on, even though your cat or kitten is healthy now. We can recommend a vet practice, you can research practices online, or you can ask a friend for a recommendation.

A veterinarian can answer many medical questions for you and will recognize issues of concern that may need attention. Bring your pet's health records with you. Discuss possible signs of illness to watch for in the future.

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 gum, swollen or red eyes or eye discharge, nasal discharge, and an 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 that 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 and 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.