



# Before you adopt...

Creating a safe environment for a cat or kittens coming into your home is really important. There are six basic things that we look for when we do a home visit. Please make sure that you are prepared for your new arrival!

## 1. Screens on all windows

If screens aren't already on all windows you'll need to buy the inexpensive adjustable screens sold at hardware stores. With open windows it's not a question of "if" the cat or kitten might fall, it's more of a question of "when." Many cats and kittens die and many are treated for very serious injuries in the city every year from falling out of windows. Screens on all windows are necessary.

## 2. Remove all toxic plants and flowers

Unfortunately many houseplants can poison your cat or kitten. Many cut flowers, especially lilies are also poisonous. Specific information is available online through the ASPCA and other similar sites.

## 3. Block unsafe hiding places

Especially for kittens, make sure that they can't get trapped behind refrigerators, stoves, radiators, etc... Small kittens have been known to get caught under radiators, and confused about getting out, get badly burned or injured from the heat. One way to block access to hiding places is to buy foam core, which can easily be cut to the needed size and taped in place with duct tape. Once cats and kittens are comfortable with their new environment, they're less likely to hide.

## 4. Protect your valuables

Put away valuable and breakable things, especially at first. Cats are curious and will investigate everything. Better safe than sorry. Also, don't leave food out and unattended. Any food left out on counters or the table is fair game for cats!

## 5. Electrical Cords

Keep an eye on your cords. Some cats and kittens never touch them but others might decide to chew, which can be dangerous to them and your things. If they do chew, cheap casing can be purchased to protect the cords. Also, try keeping them out of sight. Bitter Apple Spray is another means of discouraging cats from chewing.

## 6. Small Objects

String, rubber bands, dental floss, paper clips, etc.. can all be swallowed by kittens and cats. String, floss and ribbon, especially, can get caught in their intestines. Many cats have required surgery to remove swallowed objects. Pills and medications can be especially dangerous, even deadly. Be mindful of any small objects that cats or kittens can't access.