

## Ten Lives Cat Rescue - Homing Policy

**Effective Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024

**Approved By:** Ten Lives Cat Rescue Board of Directors

**Reviewed By:** Meg Murphy

**Next Review Date:** October 2025

---

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the procedures and guidelines for homing rescued cats through Ten Lives Cat Rescue. The goal is to ensure each cat is placed in a safe, loving, and permanent home that meets their individual needs.

---

### 2. Scope

This policy applies to all volunteers and adopters involved in the homing process at Ten Lives Cat Rescue. It governs the homing of all cats and kittens under the care of the organisation.

---

### 3. Eligibility Criteria for Adoption

All potential adopters must meet the following criteria to be eligible to adopt a cat from Ten Lives Cat Rescue:

**1. Age Requirement:**

- Adopters must be 18 years of age or older.

**2. Living Arrangements:**

- Adopters must have a stable living environment. Renters must provide proof of pet approval from landlords. Homeowners may be subject to confirmation of their ability to have pets.

**3. Experience with Cats (Recommended):**

- While not mandatory, previous experience with pet care (especially cats) is preferred. If not, potential adopters will be offered educational resources and training.

**4. Environment Suitability:**

- A home visit or virtual assessment may be conducted to ensure the living environment is safe, appropriate, and meets the needs of the cat, especially for those with specific medical or behavioural needs.

**5. Financial Stability:**

- Adopters must demonstrate they have the financial means to provide for the long-term care of the cat, including veterinary costs, food, and other essentials.
-

## 4. Adoption Process

The homing process includes the following steps:

### 1. Application Submission:

- Potential adopters are required to fill out an online application to adopt form, providing detailed information about their living situation, family members, lifestyle, and reasons for adopting. This process can be completed over the phone or in person if required.

### 2. Application Review:

- Applications are reviewed by a Ten Lives Cat Rescue adoption coordinator. The review includes checking references (e.g., veterinarians, landlords) and confirming eligibility.

### 3. Meet-and-Greet:

- Approved applicants will schedule a meet-and-greet with the cat in question, either at the foster home, another suitable location, or through a virtual visit if necessary.

### 4. Home Check:

- A home visit or virtual video call will be scheduled to verify the living environment is suitable.

### 5. Adoption Approval:

- Once all checks have been completed and the adoption coordinator is satisfied with the potential adopter's suitability, the adoption will be approved.

### 6. Adoption Fee:

- Upon approval, the adopter must pay an adoption fee. This fee covers veterinary costs such as vaccinations, spay/neuter, microchipping, and other medical treatments prior to adoption.
- Standard Fee: €140 per cat (€250 for two)
- Barn (Outdoor) Cats: €50 per cat

### 7. Adoption Agreement:

- The adopter must sign an Adoption Agreement, which outlines their responsibilities, including a commitment to the cat's long-term welfare and the obligation to return the cat to Ten Lives Cat Rescue if they can no longer care for it.

### 8. Post-Adoption Support:

- Adopters will receive post-adoption support and guidance from Ten Lives Cat Rescue, including follow-up communication to ensure a smooth transition and adjustment for the cat.

---

## 5. Return Policy

At Ten Lives Cat Rescue, we understand that sometimes circumstances change. Adopters are required to return the cat to the rescue organisation if they are no longer able to care for it. The following guidelines apply:

### 1. Timeframe:

- Cats may be returned at any time post-adoption if the adopter is unable to care for them. However, within the first 30 days, a partial refund of the adoption fee may be issued at the discretion of the rescue organization.

### 2. Return Process:

- Adopters must contact Ten Lives Cat Rescue to initiate the return process and provide a reason for returning the cat.
- The rescue will assess whether the cat's current condition and behaviour match the original adoption profile and ensure the best course of action for the cat's welfare.

---

## 6. Responsibilities of the Adopter

### 1. Health Care:

- Adopters must provide routine veterinary care, including regular check-ups, vaccinations, flea/worm treatments, and any necessary emergency care.

### 2. Nutrition and Well-being:

- Cats must be provided with adequate nutrition, fresh water, mental stimulation, and a safe and clean living environment.

### 3. Identification:

- Adopters must maintain the cat's microchip information up to date and the cat wears an identification tag where possible if permitted outdoors.

---

## 7. Special Cases

### 1. Special Needs Cats:

- Cats with medical, behavioural, or other special needs require extra care, and adopters must demonstrate their ability and willingness to provide such care. These cats will have a detailed care plan included in their adoption package.

---

## 8. Declined Applications

Ten Lives Cat Rescue reserves the right to decline any adoption application. This decision will be based on the best interest of the cat and will not be based on factors such as race, gender, sexual orientation, or religion. Common reasons for declining an application include:

1. **Inadequate Living Environment**
  2. **Lack of Financial Stability**
  3. **Concerns About Commitment to Long-Term Pet Care**
  4. **Unresolved Issues Identified in Home Visits**
- 

## **9. Confidentiality**

All information provided by potential adopters during the adoption process is confidential and will only be used for the purposes of processing the application.

---

## **10. Review and Amendments**

This policy will be reviewed annually, or as needed, by the Board of Directors. Any amendments must be approved by the board and will take effect immediately.

---