

## Ten Lives Cat Rescue - Intake 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

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### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the intake criteria for Ten Lives Cat Rescue to ensure we provide effective and focused care for cats in the greatest need.

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### 2. Scope

This policy applies to all cat intake requests, including those from the general public, volunteers, and partner organizations.

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### 3. Intake Criteria

Ten Lives Cat Rescue is dedicated to helping at-risk cats, specifically those from outdoor colonies, young kittens, and pregnant females. The following criteria must be met for a cat to be taken in by our rescue:

#### 1. Outdoor Colony Cats

- We will accept cats living in outdoor colonies that are unowned *and* are at risk due to environmental conditions, lack of food, or safety concerns.
- Cats must be assessed for their ability to be socialised and integrated into domestic environments. Cats that are not candidates for socialization will be enrolled in our Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programme or rehomed as barn cats.

#### 2. Kittens Under 12 Weeks of Age

- We prioritise intake of kittens under 12 weeks, especially those found without a mother, as they are at high risk when left outdoors.
- Nursing mothers will always be taken in along with their kittens. Once the kittens are weaned, she will be spayed and returned to her colony (assuming it is safe to do so).
- Kittens must either be from outdoor colonies or in immediate danger if left outside.

#### 3. Pregnant Females

- Pregnant female cats, especially those living in outdoor colonies, will be taken in to provide a safe environment for the birth and care of their kittens.
  - Pregnant females must not be domesticated or have an existing owner, unless they are part of a colony.
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#### **4. Exclusions**

Ten Lives Cat Rescue does **not** accept the following:

**1. Domestic Cats or Pet Surrenders \***

- We do not take in owned domestic cats or cats being surrendered by their owners. Our focus is on cats without a home or owners.
- Individuals seeking to surrender owned cats will be directed to resources or organizations that handle pet relinquishment or rehoming.

**2. Stray Cats Appearing to Be Recently Lost Pets**

- Cats found outside that display signs of recent domestic living (collars, friendly demeanour, etc.) will not be taken in. We will encourage finders to attempt to reunite the cat with its owner by following local lost pet protocols, such as posting online or checking for microchips. Alternatively, finders will be directed to resources or organizations that handle pet relinquishment or rehoming.

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#### **5. Special Circumstances**

Exceptions to this policy may be made under certain critical circumstances at the discretion of the Ten Lives Cat Rescue leadership team. These exceptions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to ensure they align with the rescue's mission and resources.

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#### **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.

*\* note: Ten Lives Cat Rescue will always accept back a cat or kitten homed from ourselves if the new owner is no longer able to care for them*