

# Advantages to Adopting a Mature Cat

**K**ittens, although cute and moldable, require a lot of supervision, which may be difficult in many busy family environments. Homes with existing pets can sometimes be hazardous to a small fragile kitten, as opposed to an adult cat that will soon set boundaries and determine the pecking order with the other pets in the home. Following are the unique advantages to adopting an older cats.



## What you see is what you get

With an older cat you know what you're getting in terms of size, physical appearance, health and temperament. They have already developed their personalities, temperaments, and physical characteristics.

## Low physical demands

Fortunately older cats are not as demanding as some of their younger counterparts. Although they still need quality time in the form of attention and playtime, they may be more content to sleep and curl up at your feet rather than demand nonstop playtime.

## Great for older people

Older cats often make great companions for older people, who don't have the stamina to keep up with supervising a young, energetic kitten. Research proves that petting a cat and playing with it actually reduces stress.

## Settles in much quicker

Older cats settle in easily, because they've learned what it takes to get along with others and become part of a family.

## Know what "no" means

Older cats have learned what "no" means. If they hadn't learned it, they wouldn't have gotten to be "older" cats.

## Give you more time for yourself

Older cats leave you time for yourself, because they don't make the kinds of demands on your time and attention that kittens do.

## Safer for small children than kittens

Households with small children can also be dangerous for a young kitten. An adult cat can physically tolerate more handling from a child and are able to avoid a child that may be too rough. Also children often are looking for a kitten to snuggle with and hold, yet kittens are more interested in playing and bouncing about.

With all the superb qualities possessed by older cats, it is unfortunate that they are often overlooked. 84% of adopters are looking for a cat under one year of age. Before heading to the nearest kitten area in search of your next companion, take a moment to ponder the possibilities of an older cat. You may be surprised what (and who) you find!