

**[NAME OF RESCUE]
Home Visit Check List**

Thank you for volunteering to do a home visit. The family you are visiting has applied for a [name of rescue] and has an application on file. The Home Visit Coordinator (HVC) has provided you with information about the family.

Once you have received the information from the HVC, please contact the applicant within 4 days to set up a date for the home visit.

If after 10 days you are unable to make contact with the applicant, please contact the HVC to report the lack of response.

A home visit does not constitute approval for adoption. At the conclusion of the visit, do not tell the applicant if they are approved or not. Just tell them you have to report to [name of rescue] and that the applicant will hear from [name of rescue] within 10 days.

Once the home visit has been completed, please contact the HVC and let them know.

Complete the checklist and send it no later than 3 days after the visit to:

**[name of rescue]
[address of rescue]
[Email of Rescue]**

*** PS - You may also email the completed form to the above email address**

When you go to do the home visit, imagine that you are interviewing these people as a prospective family that you would trust to care for your own cat.

Ask the applicants to describe their vision of a typical day in the adopted cat's life.

When possible, ask open-ended questions: Instead of asking if the cat will sleep in the bedroom, ask "Where will the cat sleep at night?"

Some of our applicants will be first time cat owners or have not had a cat in many years. You will need to explain day to day life with a cat of that breed and find out if they seem capable and willing to adjust their lifestyles for their new pet.

Filling out the checklist:

Your responses on this form are used by the [name of rescue] to get a sense of the applicants interested in adopting their rescued cat. The [name of rescue] uses this information to ensure a successful adoption. So we ask that you write out descriptive answers, please don't just use Y or N. (Everything is held in confidence from the applicant).

Think about what you would want to know about someone who might adopt your cat. What is your "gut reaction" to the situation. What type of cat (age, size, temperament, breed) would you see as suitable for this family.

Feel free to take this form on the visit with you. Put it in a folder or on a clipboard. Tell the applicants that [name of rescue] has a checklist and you are referring to it. You don't have to show the form to them. You shouldn't write out all your answers then either. Just refer to the checklist so you can make sure you cover everything.

Also please use the comments section at the end of the checklist to include answers to any areas of concern that the home visit coordinator may have asked you to check.

As always, suggestions, questions and comments about this form are welcome – we are always trying to improve.

[Name of Rescue] HOME VISIT Check List

Applicant's name/address/phone:

Date of Visit:

Name:

City:

Describe the street: Busy _____ Quiet _____ In between _____

Describe the setting: Rural _____ Suburban _____ Urban _____

EXTERIOR:

Does the exterior of the home have a generally well cared for appearance? Is the yard reasonably free of feces, trash or other objects?

Would a mildly curious cat be able to get out? How about a determined one? Is there a "doggie door"?

Will the applicant ever leave the cat outside and do they have any history of owning indoor outdoor cats?

INTERIOR:

Is the interior of the home generally well maintained? Please give your first impression:

Condition of house (ALL ROOMS):

Condition of basement:

Condition of garage:

Is it a one, two, or three story house? ____ Do you have any safety concerns with stairs? Are they carpeted? Is there an open stairwell that the cat could fall down several stories if they slipped?

Are there fragile items on levels/furniture that a cat could knock off? Are there lots of small objects or knick knacks?

Are there plants that could be consumed by a cat? Are there any obvious poisonous plants or plants you cannot identify as safe?

Are there easily accessible electrical cords?

Are there any other hazardous items? (mouse traps, roach bait, easily spilled household chemicals) Do they use Lysol to clean? Are they using plug in air fresheners?

How often do they light candles and what arrangements have they made to keep the cat safe when they do?

CAT COMFORT AND CARE:

Would an older cat be okay staying here? How about a young exuberant one?

Where will the cat eat? Where will the water dish be in relation to the food dish? Does the area appear clean and suitable to you?

Where will the litter box be located? How many litter boxes will be offered and of what type (covered, open)? What litter will be used? How often do they plan to scoop litter? How often do they plan to completely clean the litter box?

Are living quarters cat friendly?

What kind of food will the cat be fed? How often? How often will water bowl be cleaned and fresh water provided?

Will they allow cat to have free run of the house? If not, where will the cat stay when left alone?

Will they allow the cat on furniture? Counters? If not, how to they plan to stop access?

Are there lots of children's toys on the floor? If a long hair cat, how often do they plan to groom the cat? With a brush? With a comb? How often do they plan to wash the cat? Is the family aware of shedding? Will it present a problem?

Are any family members or regular visitors allergic?

Do the applicants seem to understand the "in-your-face" nature of some cats?

Would an older cat be okay staying here? How about a young exuberant one?

FAMILY:

How many in family?

Current pets:

Name	Type of pet	Sex	Age	Years owned

Do they and their children know not to chase a cat but to let it come to them?

Will they allow cat to have free run of the house? If not, where will the cat stay when left alone?

Do they and their children know not to chase a cat but to let it come to them?

What is their cat-saviness on a scale of 1 (none at all) to 5 (know it all):

Are there children in the home? Are children respectful of pets? How was their behavior around the other pets, if any?

Are pets well cared for? Are there any signs of neglect or abuse?

How do family members react to each other?

Are there any allergies in the family?

Is main caretaker physically able to care for cat?

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

How will they work thru behavioral issues?

What would they do if the cat becomes very ill?

How would they deal with a litter box accident?

What type of flooring do they have?

How would they “discipline” a cat?

How does the family plan to introduce the new pet to their animal? What if their current cat/dog and rescue don't get along; what will they do?

Where will the cat sleep at night?

Are there any other concerns or limitations?

Would you feel comfortable leaving a cat here?