



Kingdom Animal Shelter  
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www.kingdomanimalshelter.com

October  
2016

## ADOPTING A PET? BE SURE TO ASK THESE QUESTIONS FIRST

4. Am I Willing to Make the Time to Adopt a Pet? Cats and dogs need human interaction and exercise every day to stay physically and mentally healthy. Physical inactivity can lead to pet obesity, depression, and unwanted behaviors borne out of sheer boredom. If you're out of the house for long periods during the day, can you commit to spending quality time in the morning before you leave, and in the evening when you come home? A pet door and a fenced yard are not sufficient. Pets, unfortunately, will not take it upon themselves to go out and exercise. Besides, they will have missed you while you were out, and will crave the attention and bonding that playtime or a walk will provide. 5. Do I have the Financial Bandwidth? Having a pet as part of your family means providing more than the basic needs of food and shelter. Your pet will need a comfy bed; durable safe toys to play with; and perhaps a crate, pet carrier, pet door, and grooming products—the list continues. Or you may also need to get your pet spayed or neutered. This is a must to avoid adding to the homeless pet problem you're trying to alleviate by adopting. Low- and no-cost spay/neuter clinics may be an option if you qualify. You will also need to manage your pet's health maintenance as you would that of any other dependent. Vaccinations, wellness checkups, and dental procedures are all things you will need to invest in to keep your pet healthy and happy. Additionally, unplanned vet visits may be required periodically if your pet gets sick. You can help mitigate the cost of emergency vet visits by enrolling in pet insurance with monthly payment plans. 6. Is My Family on Board With Pet Adoption? If you live with one or more people in your household, are they ready to be a part of the daily care of a new pet? It's much easier, and more fun, to welcome a new pet into a household where the entire family enthusiastically supports the decision. 7. Are My Kids Old Enough to Respect a Pet? Nothing is cuter than kids with pets, and growing up with a pet can be incredibly rewarding for a child. In order to make the experience safe and enjoyable for everyone, your child should be old enough to understand which behaviors are no-no's when interacting with pets: No pulling ears and tails; No climbing on or riding the pet; No interfering with pet's food. If you have very young children at home, you might consider creating a space for your pet that is off-limits to kids. This could be a room, or a crate—really any quiet place your pet knows he can go when he needs some alone time. 8. Do I Promise to Ensure My Pet Doesn't End Up at a Shelter? Lost pets are frequently denied reunification with their families simply because they can't be identified. Shelters do the best they can to find their families, but pets who can't be matched with owners are often euthanized due to lack of resources and space. Avoid this grim fate by always keeping a collar and tag on your pet with current, readable contact info. Also microchip and register your pet's chip number in a national database, such as the free Found Animals microchip registry.

By Aimee Gilbreath (Source: *Everyday Health*; published Aug. 18, 2015; retrieved 9/11/16)



Helen is about two years old...and came to us as a stray. She is a gorgeous mackerel tabby, with large wide stripes and the distinctive circular pattern on her sides of the old time tabby. And she has the most gorgeous tail. Though she is a domestic short hair, her tail is long and very fluffy and she is somewhat of a flirt with it. Helen is very friendly, and she loves to be petted. She would probably be best as an only kitty. Come in and meet her today.

### \*UPCOMING EVENTS\*

- October 15 Dime-a-Dip supper, 5:00 P.M. at the United Community Church—North, St. Johnsbury; Food, Dessert Auction, Calendars for sale, and more!

### KAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Helen Morrison – President  
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**Did you know.....Some people believe that if you dream about a white cat, good luck will follow.**

**DOES YOUR CAT PEE ON THE SOFA OR BED? HERE'S WHY** By Marilyn Krieger  
*It might be relationship issues* Mild as well as serious disputes with other resident animals can cause cats to urinate on elevated surfaces. Squabbles are often over status, territory, and resources, and they can occur when other animals are introduced too quickly into the household. Dogs can be a source of stress as well—some are serious threats, others chase or play too rough. The end result is often the same—cats eliminating on areas with good views that they can quickly vacate. The situation needs to be evaluated—new cats should be separated and reintroduced gradually to the other resident animals. Most likely you will have to add more vertical territory—cat trees, shelves, and other tall pieces of furniture that the cats can use. One way kitties show their status is by where they sit in relationship to each other. These high places are also refuges from dogs and other threats. They should be at least five feet high. In addition to vertical territory, add scratching posts and horizontal scratchers. One way cats mark their territory is by scratching. *It might be separation anxiety* Kitties are not socially solitary—they often form close attachments with people and other animals. Sensitive kitties can become anxious when their favorite person is away from them for an extended period of time. These little ones might respond to the absence by urinating on places such as pillows and beds that are saturated with their human's scent. They're mingling their own scents with that of their beloved. Although separation anxiety can be heart-breaking, there are steps that you can take that will help your cat feel more secure when left alone. Those include enlisting someone to either stay with your cat or visit at least twice a day. During their visits they should interact with her, doing activities she enjoys, such as play and maybe grooming. Your scent can help your kitty feel like she's hasn't been abandoned. Before leaving, place small towels and other articles of clothing that have your scent on them in sealable plastic bags—one for each day you'll be away. Your cat sitter needs to put one new scented item out every day for your cat. When kitties urinate on elevated surfaces, they are sending a clear message that there is a potentially serious problem. Although frustrating, never punish the cat for the behavior. Instead, identify the reasons for the behavior and address them. If you can't resolve the problem, then get help from a qualified expert certified in behavior.

(Source: <http://www.catster.com>; July 29, 2016; retrieved 8/9/2016)

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT** The purpose of the Kingdom Animal Shelter is to facilitate the placement of stray and unwanted animals and pets in desirable homes; to establish and maintain an animal shelter and associated procedures that promote health, care and handling; and to prevent overpopulation and the prevention of cruelty to animals. The animals in our care, our guests, are never euthanized merely because we lack space or because the animal's stay with us has exceeded a predefined amount of time.

Please forward this to your friends, family, co-workers, or anyone interested in supporting our shelter. If you no longer wish to receive emails from Kingdom Animal Shelter, please hit "Reply" and change the subject line to UNSUBSCRIBE. Kingdom Animal Shelter respects your privacy and will never share or sell your email address or other information.