



# KATS' TALES

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

By Aimee Gilbreath

So you've been thinking about adding a dog or cat to your family, and have decided that you want to adopt. I know a little bit about this myself: During my seven years with Found Animals, a nonprofit dedicated to the happiness and safety of animals in the United States, I've fostered everything from teenage pit bulls to medically-challenged Chihuahuas. If you're wondering how you'll know when you're ready to welcome a four-legged addition to your home, ask yourself these questions: 1. What's My Motivation for Adopting a Pet? Are you looking for unconditional pet love and loyal companionship? Do you want an exercise buddy, or are you longing for an enthusiastic snuggler? If you know the answers to these questions, then you're on the right track. Bringing an adopted pet into your home is a wonderful way to gain a best friend, stress reliever, and workout partner all rolled into one. There are even health benefits to having a pet, like lower blood pressure and reduced depression. 2. Is My Living Arrangement Stable? The No. 1 reason pets are turned into shelters is that the owners' living situation changes when they move to a place where pets are not allowed. Is your rental pet-friendly for the type of pet you want? Does your lease permit it? How about your homeowner's insurance? Especially if you're considering adopting a large-breed dog, make sure you're clear on the legal ramifications. Keep in mind, if your rental or homeowner's insurance doesn't cover dogs, you can obtain dog liability insurance from a nationwide insurer. 3. Is My Place Set up for a Pet? Your primary responsibility as a pet guardian is to keep your pets safe. With this in mind, take a look around your house. Is it safe for a curious pet? If you're not on the ground floor, can you keep your pet safe from falls? Is your yard fenced to keep a pet from running away or getting lost? Is access to your pool closed off? Are toxic chemicals out of reach in your kitchen and garage, including antifreeze or other fluid spills on the garage floor? (continued next issue)



Cadet is a wonderful, friendly, inquisitive boy of about 2 years. He is a gorgeous steel grey and has lovely long fur. He is playful and gets along well with other cats. He was found as a stray, lying in the grass along a road, almost motionless. We were quite worried about him. But with excellent vet care and loving attention at the shelter, he has recovered beautifully and will make a warm and engaging addition to your home.



(Source: *Everyday Health*; published Aug. 18, 2015; retrieved 9/1/16)

### \*UPCOMING EVENTS\*

- October 2 Join us at Danville's Autumn on the Green!
- October 15 Dime-a-Dip supper at the United Community Church—North St. Johnsbury; Food, Auction, Raffle items, and more!

### KAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Did you know.....The righting reflex has helped some cats survive falls from over 32 stories onto solid ground.

## DOES YOUR CAT PEE ON THE SOFA OR BED? HERE'S WHY

By Marilyn Krieger

There's a place and a function for everything. While litter boxes function as feline restrooms, sofas and beds are supposed to be for relaxing, sleeping, and (if we're lucky) cuddling cats. We expect to find cat urine in the litter boxes, not where we unwind and nap. Cats aren't bad or purposely being naughty, nor are they seeking revenge when they urinate on the couches and the places we sleep. They should never be punished—there are legitimate reasons for the unwelcome behavior. Cats' urinating in the wrong places sends a message to everyone in the household that there's a problem that needs immediate attention. Here are some of the reasons. *There might be a medical problem* Whenever your cat has a behavior challenge or exhibits a change in behavior, have her examined as soon as possible by a veterinarian. There are no exceptions to this rule. Many serious medical problems can cause cats to avoid using litter boxes. A short list includes urinary tract infections, diabetes, and arthritis, as well as a host of other painful and serious conditions. *High places feel safe* What do sofas, beds, chairs, and counters have in common? They have surfaces that are higher than the floor and have good views. The elevation is perfect for kitties to identify and escape potential threats and stressors. Survival is a priority—and it's instinctual; cats don't want to be ambushed. Sometimes kitties will urinate on sofas and beds because these places feel safer than their litter boxes. It's harder for other animals to corner and trap them on elevated areas because the perpetrators are easily seen. *There might be problems with the litter box* Sometimes it's the cat owner's fault. The cats just don't feel safe using their litter boxes. From the feline point of view, the locations and types of boxes can be setups for other animals to corner and possibly trap them. Depending on the stressors, people can help their kitties feel more secure as well as stop or prevent the unwelcome behavior by making a few simple changes to the litter boxes. Cats need choices—if one litter box doesn't feel right, there needs to be others located throughout the home. The litter box rule is one box per cat and one for the household. If you have three cats, then your special felines need four litter boxes. The locations will make the difference between usage and avoidance. Place them in areas with good views where it would be challenging for other household animals to trap them. Avoid places such as closets, cabinets, and small rooms. The box itself makes a difference as well. Litter boxes need to be uncovered. Kitties can be trapped and ambushed in covered litter boxes. Other faux pas that can cause cats to avoid their boxes include providing them with litter boxes that are too small and not scooping the boxes at least once a day. (continued next issue)

(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.