

## **Prince Georges Feral Friends Adoption Contract**

Please accept the following guidelines for adopting a cat from us. The care that we give our feline friends is based on a holistic approach to good health. Many of the alternative forms of medicine were, actually, the main types of medicine until recent times. They were practiced by medicine men, wise women and healers for many thousands of years and have only recently become "alternatives". Holistic really means WHOLE and that your pet care should include all aspects of your pet's life. It should include good natural nutrition, close observation, attention, love, consideration and proper medical care. That is the meaning of holistic and you will find that holistic medical care can help both you and your pet live a fuller, healthier and happier life.

We give our heart to each of our cats and want to see them placed in homes where they will be members of the family for the rest of their lives-which, with care, can be more than 20 years. Not everyone agrees with all our guidelines. If you don't, please read our reasons, perhaps they will explain their importance. If not, talk to some of our volunteers. If you still strongly disagree with us, we request that you adopt a cat from a different source.

I \_\_\_\_\_, hereafter referred to as "I"/"you", certify that I am entering into a contract to adopt a cat/kitten, hereafter referred to as "the cat", from Prince Georges Feral Friends, hereafter referred to as "PGFF"/"we"/"us". I understand that to adopt the cat from PGFF I must agree to the following conditions:

### **Feeding Guidelines & Medical Care**

A cornerstone of holistic medicine is the prevention and early detection of disease. We believe that the first line of defense against illness is good diet so we feed our cats only all-natural foods. Early detection of disease means treating our pets for a problem that many conventional practitioners would ignore, or even consider normal, such as vomiting hairballs, the development of diarrhea with changes in diet, and the very common "red line" on the gums above the teeth. If we consider these signs early symptoms of disease, we have a chance to head off bigger complications later in life by dealing with small imbalances as early as they can be detected. In this way we restore balance and health.

\_\_\_\_ You agree to only feed naturally preserved foods that do not contain by-products or the preservatives BHA, BHT or Ethoxyquin.

\_\_\_\_ You agree to have the cat examined by a veterinarian no less than once a year. You agree whenever possible to use natural treatments such as herbal or homeopathic medicines and to limit the use of antibiotics and other harmful chemicals.

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\_\_\_\_ You agree to attend one PGFF seminar regarding natural cat care (Date attended \_\_\_\_\_).

\_\_\_\_ You understand that not all cats need all vaccinations. You agree to minimal vaccination of the cat. You agree vaccinate against rabies no more frequently than required by law. You agree that no injection shall ever be administered between the shoulder blades of the cat. You agree to avoid the use of “multiple dose” vaccine vials.

### **Indoor Cats**

The average life span of a cat is 15-20 years when kept inside and given proper care. The average life span of a cat that wanders outside is two years. Your cat will wander much farther than you'd expect. Even if you don't live near major roads, chances are that your cat will find them and end his/her life there. Roads aren't the only danger to cats. Many are poisoned, hurt in fights with other animals or by neighbors who dislike their presence. Many cats crawl under the hood of a car to keep warm and are killed when the car is started. With some effort on your part, most cats can learn to walk on a leash with a harness.

\_\_\_\_ You agree to keep the cat as an indoor only pet.

### **Declawing**

Our cats may not be declawed. Cats have a psychological need to claw/scratch as part of their total grooming ritual. They must remove the sheath that continues to grow over their claws like our cuticles. Frequent nail clipping can help alleviate scratching problems. Give your cat an appropriate place to scratch and gently correct your pet if it scratches the wrong things. We will be happy to demonstrate the proper way to trim the cat's claws.

\_\_\_\_ You agree never to, for any reason, have the cat declawed.

### **Giving up your cat**

If for any reason you can no longer keep the cat it must be returned to us. Do not give the cat to a shelter or any other individual. The cat may not be sold, leased or given to any pet shop, research laboratory, or similar facility. We will, at any time, accept your cat if you must give it up. We want to know that our cats are cared for all their lives. The cat will be taken back and efforts made to find a new home.

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\_\_\_\_ You agree to return the cat to PGFF if for any reason you must give it up. You agree that you will not sell, lease or give the cat to any individual, shelter, pet shop, research laboratory, or similar facility.

By signing below you understand that you are signing a legal contract stating that you will comply with our conditions. The adoption fee is \$75 for one cat or \$140 for 2 cats. All of our cats have been spayed/neutered and have received a rabies vaccination.

Description of cat: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and initialed each condition of adoption above. I agree to abide by each and every condition.

Signed     X \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_