

ADOPTING A MATURE CAT HAS MANY BENEFITS

Spring is a time of regrowth and new life. Spring is also the time when new puppies and kittens begin showing up at the Euclid Animal Shelter almost daily. Older cats who have patiently waited all winter to be adopted seem to know that their chances of finding a home diminish with these cute and cuddly spring arrivals. Their sad eyes reflect the loss of hope.

Although babies beguile us with their antics and boundless energy, there are many advantages to choosing an older animal as a pet. A pet that has outgrown the “diaper” and mischief-making days will have its own personality and character. What you see is what you get, and that makes it easier to find a companion whose temperament is a good match. I encounter many cats that call the shelter home on my way to and from seeing clients in my clinic. They are healthy and eager to welcome a new day with us. It amazes me how different their personalities are. Their entertaining and endearing ways entertain volunteers and visitors alike.

Novelty and cuddliness will quickly win our hearts, but the reality of caring for newly reared pets and the destruction their exuberance sometimes causes often becomes tiresome for new owners. I always advise my clients to evaluate their lifestyles and time constraints before deciding to adopt a puppy or kitten versus an adult pet.

The surrender/return rate for adult pets is minimal compared to baby pets. I, myself, know that I do not have the time to correctly raise a puppy and always choose an adult cat or dog to share my home. The best pets I ever had in my life were pets from a shelter. I marvel at the reality that you can buy true, unconditional love and companionship for the price of a good dinner. Please consider adopting a mature cat. They will find a place in your heart, and you will benefit in so many ways.