

# Adult Cat Preacquisition Inspection Checklist

When examining an adult cat, ask yourself the following questions. Ideally, all of your answers should be “yes.” Even a single “no” should be cause for careful consideration.

Yes

No

Can you contact the cat’s previous owner?

Yes

No

Is there any record of the cat’s previous history and why it is being offered for sale/adoption?

Yes

No

Are you sure the cat isn’t being given up because of a major personality defect, such as destructiveness? (This is not necessarily a deal breaker. In many cases, loving attention can erase bad habits.)

Yes

No

Is the cat litter-box trained?

Yes

No

Does the cat seem friendly, amiable, and interested in you?

Yes

No

If the cat will live among children, was it raised with any?

Yes

No

Has the cat received appropriate medical care? Are there records to prove it?

Yes

No

Is the cat’s stool firm?

Yes

No

Are its eyes clear and free of discharge?

Yes

No

Are its ears and nose free of discharge?

Yes

No

Is its coat clean and shiny? Does the cat take an interest in cleaning itself?

Yes

No

Is its breathing regular, with no coughing and/or wheezing?

Yes

No

Is its body physically sound, with no lameness or tenderness anywhere?



**EXPERT TIP:** Be sure to spend a considerable amount of time with an adult cat, so that you thoroughly understand its personality. Additionally, take the cat to a veterinarian for a pre-adoption checkup.