



Felines 1st Rehoming Procedures during COVID-19 Pandemic

1st May 2020

Following updates to government advice to animal rescue and rehoming organisations we have developed procedures to enable Felines 1st to begin rehoming cats. These procedures are based on the Defra approved Canine and Feline Sector Group (CFSG) [guidelines](#), which advises how animals can be safely rehomed during the pandemic.

If you wish to adopt a cat from Felines 1st, we will ask you to abide by these procedures to ensure the health and welfare of both you and the Felines 1st volunteer. These procedures are set out below:

Home checks

We will not rehome an animal to a home in which any member is either displaying symptoms of, or has tested positive for, Coronavirus and has not yet recovered. We will verify this with you prior to doing a home check.

We will only consider local rehoming i.e. within a 20 mile radius to avoid long journeys.

As per usual practice, we will need to assess the suitability of your home to ensure that the welfare needs of the animal will be met. Prior to COVID-19, these would have been physical home visits. However, we will use technologies such as Google Earth, and with your permission will also carry out a virtual tour of your home and garden using WhatsApp, Zoom, photos, videos or similar.

Viewing of cats for adoption

We understand that you will want to meet your cat before adopting; however, we cannot grant access for you to visit an animal prior to adopting as we cannot guarantee your safety from infection, and this also does not constitute essential travel. Instead, we will offer the use of technologies such as WhatsApp, Zoom, photos, videos or similar, so that you can meet your cat virtually and the fosterer will be able to describe the personality of your cat.



Adoption paperwork

To ensure there will be no physical contact between you and the Felines 1st volunteer, we will do all paperwork electronically:

1. We will email the Adoption form to you, and ask you to complete the form, print, sign, scan and email it back to us.
2. Payment will be accepted electronically only, either via PayPal, or directly to our bank account.
3. We will provide a receipt electronically to you.
4. Receipt of payment needs to be confirmed before rehoming can take place.

Handover

Prior to handover, we will need you to confirm that neither you, nor anyone in your household, is displaying symptoms of, or has tested positive for and is still sick from, Coronavirus.

Given the limited access to pet stores, we will additionally need to check that you have all of the necessary equipment and supplies for your cat, including litter tray, litter, food, bowls, etc., for at least 14 days.

As we cannot allow cats to be collected, a volunteer from Felines 1st will transport the cat(s) and deliver to your home.

The volunteer will be:

- Wearing a Felines 1st shirt / fleece.
- Carrying their Felines 1st ID.
- Carrying a copy of the adoption form.

To ensure that there will be no physical contact between you and the Felines 1st volunteer, we need to carefully plan the handover with you. Both parties will need to agree how to carry out the delivery safely. This plan will cover at least the following:

1. We need to agree the appointment date and time for the handover.
2. The cat basket will be transported on a disposable sheet, such as newspaper, while in the volunteer's vehicle.
3. When we deliver the animal, we will need to do this in a secure way and which allows for you to receive the cat in its basket, whilst maintaining at least a two-metre distance from the volunteer:



- a. The basket will be carried by the volunteer with gloves / cloth, and will be left on the doorstep to your home. The volunteer will ring the doorbell and step at least 2 meters back from the home entrance.
 - b. The volunteer will not enter your home.
 - c. You should please handle the basket in the same way i.e. with gloves / cloth. Then take the basket inside and into a secure location. Once the cat is secured, the empty basket should be returned in the same way.
4. To avoid any risk of transfer of COVID-19 from the cat's fur to you, we advise you to wash your hands after stroking or touching the cat, particularly in the first few days.

Follow up check

We will keep in touch with you and will carry out the follow up visit using technology, or we will carry out a post-rehoming home visit once the situation returns to normal, travel restrictions are lifted and when it is safe to do so.