

Rehoming Guidelines



My Cat Needs a New Home.

The day may come when you find yourself in a situation where you absolutely have no choice but to re-home your Bengal cat.

Re-homing is stressful and there are several steps involved that can help insure your cats best interests are being met through the process.

When you first got your kitten or cat you made a commitment to this pet. A commitment to look out for his or her best interests. This commitment should still remain in effect even if you have decided to give him or her up.

Before determining that you can no longer keep your Bengal cat please be honest. There is a difference between can't and don't want to.

If you really want to keep your cat, then seek out ways to make it work.

•**Moving**— If you have a cat, he

or she is part of your family. You wouldn't give up a family member in a move so don't consider giving up your cat! Seek housing that allows you to have a cat. Don't look at places that don't allow pets. Widening your search may mean a longer commute, but you would be able to keep your Bengal.

•**Having a Baby**— Congratulations! There shouldn't be any problems with your cat and the baby. Proper introductions are all it takes! Your new baby can benefit from a cat. Children exposed to cats during their first year of life are less likely to have problems with allergies of ANY type according to the National Institute of Health.

•**Allergies**—Allergies can be controlled in many instances. There are numerous products on the market that can aid you. Your veterinarian will be a good source for a variety of products to use on your cat and your family doctor can help with prescriptions that will relieve your allergy symptoms. Look for a physician who is sensitive to your feelings about your cat and will do everything reasonable to help you keep him or her!



Rehoming is stressful on your cat.. Try to make rehoming as successful as possible.

Behavioral Issues Can be Resolved

If you have determined that you can no longer live with your cat due to unacceptable behavioral issues then at least accept the responsibility of attempting to resolve those issues.

You have several options:

1. Get help to correct the problem!
2. Give the problem to someone else.
3. Euthanasia

The good news about behavioral problems is that most can be corrected. If you need help with this, talk to your breeder. They will often be able to provide you with good advice and suggestions to correct behavior

issues your cat may be displaying. If that isn't an option or you feel you have exhausted the breeders knowledge base then seek out a professional for assistance. A feline behaviorist, a cat communicator or perhaps your veterinarian may be able to help you resolve unacceptable behavior.

A feline behaviorist is trained in understanding the cat and how to correct behavior problems that may surface. She will be able to assist you with behavior

modification, identifying the cause of the problem and finally resolution.

A cat communicator can listen to the cat and hears reasons for the behavior. that you may not hear.





THE INTERNATIONAL BENGAL CAT CONNECTION

PO Box 6297
Oroville, CA 95966

Email: info@bengalcatconnection.com

We're on the web!

www.bengalcatconnection.com

Re-homing Guidelines

***The International Bengal Cat Connection** is dedicated to the Bengal Cat and its owners! We live, work and play with our Bengal cats. We consider them part of our family!*

*Taking an entertaining, informative and balanced look at the ordinary and extraordinary relationships we form with our Bengals, **The International Bengal Cat Connection**:*

- *presents **Bengals Illustrated**; A quarterly magazine dedicated to the Bengal cat and Bengal cat enthusiasts!*
- *promotes public awareness – important issues that concern us and our cats are regularly presented*
- *is educational – includes practical advice on behavior, health and diet*
- *features heart-warming stories, "Soul Food" – real-life stories enjoyed by young and old alike*
- *has superb photography – is full of fantastic images of Bengal Cats -Pets, Breeders and Show cats alike!*
- *welcomes your articles, stories, letters and photographs!*

Shelters, Breeders, Breed Rescue

The reality is that all cats, even purebreds are at risk of euthanasia if relinquished to a shelter. It is no secret that most shelters are overcrowded. Cats that have been given up by their owners may be euthanized even on the same day that they arrived simply due to a lack of space in the shelter. Shelters don't necessarily want to euthanize, most are run by very caring individuals, but because of space they often don't have a choice.

Being a purebred does not help the chances of your cat being adopted. The reality is that taking your cat to the shelter puts your Bengal at a great number of risks. If your cat is older, has any health problems, a poor attitude towards other cats or strangers then its chances of adoption are greatly diminished.

In the shelter your cat is exposed to numerous viruses and because of having lived a protected pet life, not having been exposed to many of these viruses, compounded with the stress a cat feels when threatened, it becomes a very high risk candidate for becoming ill, often very seriously ill.

The reality is, when re-homing your cat, the last place to consider is a shelter.

Your first choice for re-homing, if you have determined you will not keep your cat, should be the breeder. A good responsible breeder will take back a cat they bred at any point in its life or will assist you in re-homing the cat to insure a good placement.

Your second choice should be to seek out Bengal breed rescue. Even if your cat doesn't have papers Bengal rescue will

usually commit to finding the cat a permanent home. Remember rescue is run by volunteers who are willing to foster your cat in their own home until a good home is found. They are often burdened with the task of paying for out of pocket costs to insure the care and safety of your pet until it is adopted. If you can assist the foster financially, do. Taking your pet in to the vet to update all vaccinations and to have him or her spayed or neutered, if not already done, will also assist the foster and help to insure a quicker placement for your Bengal cat.

Rescue will make every effort to list your cat on websites for maximum exposure and ultimately assisting in a more rapid transition to a new home.

Whether you relinquish your Bengal to the breeder or to rescue, provide them with any paperwork you have since this too can aid in a quicker placement.

Remember, you do have a responsibility to this pet even if you have determined to give it up!



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