

### FeLV Adoption Policy

#### **PURPOSE**

This document defines the policy and procedures for proper feline leukemia (FeLV) cat adoptions.

#### **SCOPE**

This policy applies to all APA! staff and volunteers responsible for assisting with FeLV cat adoptions.

#### **POLICY**

APA! staff and volunteers will assist with FeLV cat adoptions in accordance with the documented procedures.

#### **PROCEDURES**

Adoptions for FeLV cats are generally similar to adoptions for cats without FeLV. The following are the primary differences:

- Make sure that the adopter has no FeLV negative cats in the home. APA! does not adopt out FeLV cats to homes where FeLV negative cats are present but vaccinated against FeLV.
- There is no adoption fee for FeLV cats.
- In addition to covering a FeLV cat's medical history in detail, adoption counselors should go over common signs of illness to watch out for. These should be highlighted in the APA! FeLV handout. Remind adopters that FeLV cats need to be seen by a vet at the very first sign of illness as they get sick much faster than cats without FeLV.
- Make sure adopters understand that any illnesses related to FeLV can be taken care of free of charge by the APA! Medical Clinic. Vaccines, broken bones, skin issues, dental cleanings/extractions, and other routine care should be handled at an adopter's regular vet while APA! veterinarians should be contacted in the case of URI, inappetence, weight loss, lethargy, fever, etc.
- Adopters should be warned that some vets outside of APA! will not be familiar with treating FeLV cats. Advise adopters to call around and inquire about each clinic's experience dealing with FeLV cats before choosing a regular vet. The FeLV info sheet lists a handful of Austin area vets who have experience treating cats with FeLV.
- Go over how to get in contact with the APA! medical staff ([medtechs@austinpetsalive.org](mailto:medtechs@austinpetsalive.org)), as well as the clinic receptionist ([medicalreception@austinpetsalive.org](mailto:medicalreception@austinpetsalive.org)) to set up appointments.
- After finishing an adoption, send a manager or other staff member to check the cat's microchip as well as put newly adopted cats in carriers. Do not ask volunteers to perform these tasks.
- Make sure that the FeLV handout goes home with the adopter in their adoption folder.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For questions regarding this policy, contact document owner.