

Five great reasons to adopt a cat today

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Did you know Morris was a shelter cat?

OK, a cat you adopt may not become the face that launched millions of catfood cans, but adopting a cat or a couple of cats — because they really do better in pairs — is a great thing this month because June is the American Humane Association's Adopt-A-Cat month.

Extras

First, you help reduce the numbers of unwanted cats and kittens at shelters. Spring is usually when shelters burst at the seams with kittens.

Second, it keeps another cat from being dumped on a country road or in a city alley.

The association estimates the homeless population of cats in the United States at 70 million — the number of owned cats is 75 million.

The association is holding the national Morris' Million Cat Rescue campaign. They are at 800,000 cats rescued and hoping to hit the million mark.

But why a cat?

1. Having a pet teaches children responsibility. Plus, June is a great time to adopt because kids are home from school and have plenty of time to focus on the care of their new cat.
2. Recent studies have shown the incredible calming effect cats have on humans, including decreased stress and blood pressure.
3. Out of the millions of cats who enter shelters each year, only about one in four are adopted into loving homes. In fact, most of them — more than 70 percent of them — must be euthanized.
4. Cats are great companions and they require a relatively small amount of care — they bathe themselves and can be left at home during the day.
5. Have you ever been purred at?

If you do adopt a cat or kitten, make sure you do the responsible thing — if the shelter has not already done it — and have the animal spayed or neutered. If you care enough to adopt the cat, give it a really good home.

That means having the cat altered so she doesn't add to the population problem, keeping her indoors — indoor cats live much longer, healthier and happier lives — and making sure she has veterinary care for her lifespan.

If you do all that, you could have unconditional love for more than a decade. And who doesn't want that?