

# Helping Your Kitty Find a Safe, New Forever-Home

There are several options when you are seeking to re-home your kitty and Maine Coon Adoptions (MCA) is here to help. We urge you, first and foremost, to ***steer clear of shelters.***

## A SHELTER IS NOT A GOOD OPTION

Most people will never step foot into an animal shelter. Most animals will never step out. At all costs, you should avoid turning your kitty over to a shelter. Despite their best efforts, shelters typically are overwhelmed with homeless pets and euthanize those who are not adopted quickly, especially “older” kitties and those with any health problems or behavioral issues. Virtually any option is better than a shelter. ***A shelter is no place for your kitty to spend its final days!***



Following are some much better options:

## MCA COURTESY POSTS:

MCA can help you rehome your kitty by displaying your cat on the [Adoptable Cats](#) page of our website, as a “Courtesy Post”. Your cat will also appear on our [Adoptapet.com](#) page, and possibly on our social media sites such as our [MCA Facebook](#) page.

In addition, we will “screen” potential adopters of your cat. When people call you about your cat, spend 10 minutes talking with them - i.e. ask some basic questions and listen to their responses. If you like what you hear, find out the name and city of the person, have the person complete an application at [www.mainecoonadoptions.com](http://www.mainecoonadoptions.com), and alert us to this possible application by emailing MCA’s Director Elaine at [elaineln@pacbell.net](mailto:elaineln@pacbell.net). We will evaluate potential adopters through an extensive conversation with the applicant, call the vet for the history of the care provided, call the landlord (if applicable), and send you a short report, along with the application and our recommendation. We have an Adoption Agreement you can use as well.

There is no charge for this service; we want to get all cats into safe and loving homes. To begin the process, please submit a courtesy post request on our website: [MCA Courtesy Post Info and Form](#) Please note: we only post cats who are located in California.

When completing the Courtesy Post request form, please provide as much information as you can about your cat. We will place this information into an ad format. The more information you give us, the better the ad that we can create for your cat.

**Photos sell your cat.** Your cat is competing against hundreds of other equally loving, neat, special cats. Submit several photos of your kitty - at least one face shot and a body shot.

*Examples of poor photos - blurry, or under- or over-exposed:*



*Examples of strong, clear, easy-to-see-the-kitty photos:*



See our guide to taking better cat photos to help your kitty pictures stand out from the rest: [MCA - How to Take Better Cat Photos](#)

If you can make a 30-second video of your kitty, we have found this greatly increases the cat's chances of getting adopted. You can upload the video to YouTube and send the URL to our volunteer: [artemiss222@gmail.com](mailto:artemiss222@gmail.com). Please include your name and email, and the name of the cat. The video feature on your phone is fine for this purpose.

If you are in the Bay Area, our volunteer professional photographers may be able to help with photos and videos of your cat. Again, there is no fee for this service.

Above all, keep trying! Remember: Municipal shelters are overcrowded and must take in every animal that is given to them - which means that they kill animals when they get full. Be realistic: your cat has a slim chance of being adopted from a shelter.

#### MCA ADOPTION FAIRS:

MCA has adoption fairs twice a month, and you are welcome to bring your kitties to the fair(s) and show the kitties; you do not need to be present for the duration of the fair but should be available by cell phone.

The fairs are very busy with many visitors; this is an excellent way to gain “live” exposure of your kitty to the kitty-loving public. These fairs are usually held the first Saturday of the month in Oakland and the second Saturday of the month in Pleasant Hill. Contact Elaine at [elaineln@pacbell.net](mailto:elaineln@pacbell.net) or 510-710-9250 if you are interested in showing your kitty.

#### GETTING YOUR “OLDER” KITTY ADOPTED:

If your kitty is over the age of 8, people consider the kitty “old”. Let’s be realistic: these kitties have a harder time getting adopted. There are hundreds of young, apparently healthy cats available; why would someone want to adopt a kitty who is 8 or 10 years old, or older? Your kitty faces stiff competition to find a new home.

MCA adopts many older kitties; in 2018, we adopted Agnes, a kitty who was blind, deaf and incontinent. And yes, while it seemed miraculous, it did happen! If MCA can find a home for Agnes, we can work closely with you to find a home for your “older” kitty.

We have found that people will adopt an older kitty **IF** they know the kitty is healthy - and so we spend the money to do a “senior blood panel” where the liver, kidney and thyroid are checked and, if the vet determines the kitty needs it, we have dental work done. Yes, a cat who is 8 or older often has dental issues - just like us humans. Younger cats can have dental needs as well - but usually by the time a cat is 8 years old (late forties in human years), dental work is needed. So, yes, this will cost money - BUT, it makes your “older” cat MUCH more appealing to an adopter. Doing the vet care is the only way to “prove” that your older kitty is healthy and robust.

Sometimes kitties have an urgent need for a new home. Maine Coon Adoptions primarily rescues cats from high-kill shelters in the Central Valley, where 8 of 10 cats are killed. We do not take owner-surrender cats, nor do we take in cats from the Bay Area shelters.

However, we have some recommendations that we hope will be helpful to you:

- Contact ALL your family and friends who might offer a home - and don’t be SHY!!!
- Put up flyers at your veterinarian’s office, and clearly state your deadline for a new home.
- Contact other rescue groups asking if they can take in the kitty and offer them money to help defray the costs of caring for your kitty. Hint: be generous - a larger gift will incentivize the rescue group to help you find a home for the kitty and help them cover their operating costs.
- Create your own rehoming post for your kitty on Adoptapet at [Rehome by Adopt-a-Pet](#) – this is a free program, which also includes help with screening applicants.
- Read all the information in the links below, which contain excellent information and ideas on things you can do to find a good home for your cat:

<http://www.thedancingcat.org/resources/>

<https://bestfriends.org/resources/rehome-my-dog-cat-or-other-pet>

<http://www.hssv.org/what-we-do/pet-care-services/pet-surrender/pet-surrender-resources.html#landingpage>