

Our Policy on Kids & Kittens

WE OFTEN RECEIVE QUESTIONS REGARDING OUR DECISION not to adopt kittens under 10 months old to households with children under 7 years of age. This handout seeks to address our reasons and help the public understand this decision.

At Fancy Cats Rescue Team, part of our mission is to find loving lifetime homes for our cats with caring and generous families like yours! Achieving this mission requires us to weigh the preponderance of evidence, rely on past experience, and make some tough decisions.

While it may seem unfair at first, applying age guidelines is done for the best interest of our cats, and is a common policy among animal rescues, welfare groups, humane organizations, & shelters across the USA and Europe.

This handout seeks to address our reasons and help the public understand this policy.

Sometimes a Dangerous Combination

According to kittenrescue.org "...research has shown that most children under the age of 7 have significant trouble telling the difference between a small animal and a toy." Kids don't always realize their own strength, especially when handling a tiny kitten or other small animal. Young children can become overwhelmed with loving feelings for a pet, and they may express themselves with an overly enthusiastic hug leading to a serious injury for the kitten so loved by the family. No one, especially your young child, wants to be responsible for hurting the newest, furry family member.

Kittens, on the other hand, often play rough. Scratching and exploring with their teeth is

normal, and they often attempt to climb children and adults alike. At the very least, this may lead to minor injuries to the child, but if the child reacts with fear or anger, the kitten may be injured. Combining a child and a kitten can often mean an inadvertent injury to both child and animal.

There Are Always Exceptions

There are cases where kittens & young children have become fast friends with little or no trouble. Unfortunately, we've dealt with some of the more tragic results. We must base our policies on our experience with having to find new homes for the many, many kittens returned each year for scratching, biting, or being too rough with someone's children. The one adoption that fortuitously works out does not justify the 20 that resulted in disaster.

Recommendations

We recommend that families with children under 7 adopt an older cat, one used to being around young children. One terrific benefit of adopting an adult cat is that you can be more certain of its personality. Cats that have had experience in homes with children will be more likely to be tolerant of an excited and loving child.

We feel our decision not to adopt kittens under 10 months old to households with children under 7 years of age, is in the best interest of our kitties, and your family.