



Bailey is a clean, quiet, and affectionate love bug. To learn more about him and other adoptable cats, visit Virden Pet Network online: www.geocities.com/virdenpetnet

"Oh Grow Up Already... Please!"

By Heather Reimer

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Christine Hearn is a cat rescuer who wishes her four foster kittens would just grow up... or get adopted. Soon.

"I had to give away my weeping fig because it was always laying on its side. The violet leaves are getting plucked. I can never find the plug for the sink anymore. And, oh! for a good night's sleep without the kittens fighting or running over us!"

Sure, new kittens are cute, entertaining and full of life. But there's nothing cute about dumped plants, shredded upholstery, or razor-sharp teeth in your toes at 3 a.m.

For all these reasons and more, adopting an adult cat could make your life a lot easier. After all, with "pre-owned" cats like Bailey (in the photo), there's usually little or no training required. They've already learned how to use the litter box, stay off the cupboards, use a scratching post, and – thankfully – sleep through the night so you can do the same.

Adult cats have also outgrown the common ailments of kittenhood and need fewer visits to the vet. In fact, they tend to require less attention in general. They're calmer and not as busy as kittens, making them suitable housemates for most types of families: those with children, working singles and couples, and retirees who just want a quiet companion.

Often when people insist on getting a kitten, it's because they believe it will be accepted more readily by other pets in the household. But when introduced to each other correctly, adult cats can learn to get along well with other pets even if they never become best pals.

The best kind of cat to adopt, in my opinion? An adult cat who's been rescued. They just tend to be the most grateful, affectionate pets of all. Bailey, for example, shows his thanks every day by looking me deeply in the eyes, reaching up for a lift, and then settling into my arms for a contented, purry cuddle... without squirming, scratching or biting. Try doing that with a kitten!