

Toronto Humane Society – Policy and Procedure			
Chapter	Operations	Issued	May 31, 2022
Section	Animal Welfare	Effective	May 31, 2022
Subject	Feline Alternative Placement Policy	# Pages	2

1. PURPOSE

- (a) Toronto Humane Society recognizes that every animal has unique needs. Some cats are not appropriate for a traditional home environment. Toronto Humane Society will always act in the best interests of the cat. This document outlines the policy for alternative placements in these cases, thereby safeguarding their welfare. Toronto Humane Society will always act in the best interests of the cat.

2. POLICY

(a) General

- i. Before pursuing alternative placement for a cat, Toronto Humane Society will consider other options, including but not limited to adoption, foster, medical intervention, behavioural intervention, and return to their original environment.
- ii. Toronto Humane Society staff will assess all cats and alternative placement locations for their suitability for the program before placement.
- iii. Toronto Humane Society will sterilize, vaccinate, and microchip all cats prior to placement.
- iv. Toronto Humane Society will offer to provide free sterilization and vaccine services for any cats already residing at the alternative placement location.
- v. Toronto Humane Society will provide regular communication and support to the alternative placement location owner or caregiver until the transition is considered successfully complete.
- vi. This adoption will be subject to all the conditions and benefits set out in all other relevant policies (Adoptions-Rehoming Policy, Euthanasia Policy, etc.) *and* will be eligible for standard community cat medical care through Toronto Humane Society Public Veterinary Services.

(b) Cat Selection

- i. Assessment of suitability for the program is performed by:
 - Toronto Humane Society staff in accordance with current departmental protocols and industry best practices
 - DVM for review of any medical conditions that may disqualify a cat
- ii. To be selected for placement in an alternative location, cats **must meet one or more** of the following criteria:
 - Come from a colony, hoarding case, or other situation where the cat is not comfortable in a conventional home
 - Experience significant stress in the shelter environment
 - React negatively to being handled, including the expression of fear or aggression
 - Exhibit behavioural issues that do not resolve with treatment and that preclude placement in a conventional home
- iii. Cats with the following characteristics are **not suitable** for placement in an alternative location:
 - Significant unresolved active health concerns
 - Declawed
- iv. Toronto Humane Society will **use caution** when considering cats for placement with the following characteristics:
 - Friendly and social disposition
 - Unaccustomed to being outdoors

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- Ongoing health concerns and/or a need for ongoing medication or treatment, or where prognosis is poor
 - Physical characteristics that limit the cat’s ability to survive in an alternative placement location, as assessed by a DVM (current coat condition, full mouth extraction, etc.)
- v. The decision to place a cat in an alternative location can be reversed if significant changes in behaviour or medical condition are observed.

(c) Alternative Placement Location Selection

- i. THS staff will assess and approve all potential alternative placement locations before placing cats at the site.
- ii. Alternative placement locations must satisfy the following conditions:
 - Caregiver willing to follow directions from manual in consultation with Toronto Humane Society staff and be available for regular communication for the duration of the placement process (i.e., the gradual transition into the environment, with regular guidance from THS Shelter Training Team)
 - Caregiver that lives in and/or works at, and/or visits the site on a daily basis to ensure the cat(s) are fed and monitored
 - A building with a warm (e.g., heating system, horses/livestock, winterized cat dens) primary housing area the cat(s) can access at all times
 - No dogs on site that can reasonably be judged to present a danger to the cats (e.g., a history of aggression towards cats)
 - Primary housing area should not be in close proximity to a busy road
 - No history of regular predation by local wildlife

3. SCOPE

- (a) Feline Alternative Placement Policy applies to all Toronto Humane Society owned cats.
- (b) Feline Alternative Cat Placement Policy applies to all employees and volunteers who interact with cats and/or alternative placement locations.

4. OVERSIGHT

- (a) Alternative placement locations must be approved by the Chief Operating Officer; Division Manager, Shelter Programs; and Director, Behaviour. Cats are suggested for alternative placement by joint application by a member of the Shelter Training Team and a veterinarian. Cat applications must be approved by the Director, Behaviour before placement in an alternative placement location. Placement process is then supervised by Toronto Humane Society staff until judged successfully complete.

Chief Executive Officer

Date

President

Date