

ECAP Guidelines

The PAWS Experienced Cat Adopter Program (ECAP) - The purpose of the ECAP is to address the needs of certain cats by informing potential adopters of their needs or behaviors in an attempt to increase the long-term success rate of adoptions. The guidelines also identify characteristics of cats that could be challenging for first time cat guardians.

ECAP-1. These cats are not suited for first time cat guardians. These cats will likely have an age restriction. They will be cats who could either be shyer, possibly socialized semi-ferals or long time strays, or cats that may be easily overstimulated and demanding of attention. They may also have a history of redirected play aggression if their play needs are not met regularly. Based on their behavior there may also be recommendations about what type of cats they may be best suited living with if they are going into a multi-cat household.

ECAP-2. These cats are not appropriate for first time cat guardians. These cats will have an age restriction typically as ‘adult home only’. They will do best in a quiet, predictable home that has a good history of living successfully with difficult cats. Behaviors may include semi-social cats to cats that like life on their terms. These cats often may not enjoy being picked up and will have a lower threshold to handling overall, hence making them more difficult to groom, medicate, take in for veterinary examination, etc. Based on their behavior there may also be restrictions or recommendations about what type of cats they may be best suited living with if they are going into a multi-cat household.