



Humane Animal Rescue Solo Kittens in Care and Beyond Policy

Objective: To ensure the well-being and proper socialisation of solo kittens in our care and once adopted, preventing single kitten syndrome and promoting their physical and emotional development.

Policy Statement: All solo kittens admitted into our Humane Animal Rescue must be placed in foster homes or adoptive families with another cat if they are 6 months or under in order to mitigate the negative effects of single kitten syndrome and to provide the best possible environment for the holistic development of these animals.

Guidelines:

1. **Foster Placement:** Upon admission of a solo kitten into our care, efforts will be made to place the kitten in a foster home where there is at least one other cat present such as a resident cat already in the home or placing the kitten with other kittens like litter mates.
2. **Adoption Requirements:** Prospective adopters interested in adopting a solo kitten must already have a resident cat in their home. This ensures that the solo kitten will have feline companionship from the outset of their adoption.
3. **Educational Outreach:** Humane Animal Rescue provides educational resources and guidance to foster carers, adopters, and the general public about the importance of socialization for solo kittens and the risks associated with single kitten syndrome. This information will be stated online in our adoption policy listed on Pet Rescue, in our Foster handbook, Adoption handbook and adoption day information.
4. **Monitoring and support:** Humane Animal Rescue will maintain regular contact with foster carers and adopters to monitor the progress of solo kittens integrating with resident cats and provide support as needed. This may include behavioural advice, resources for enrichment activities, and assistance with introductions between the solo kitten and their feline companion.
5. **Exceptions:** In rare cases where it is not possible to place a solo kitten with another cat due to medical reasons or exceptional circumstances, alternative arrangements may be considered on a case-by-case basis. However, every effort will be made to prioritize the socialization and well-being of solo kittens according to this policy. A kitten under 6 months will only be placed solo in a foster or adopters' home after we have made every effort to place them with

another animal, and a behaviourist agrees that solo placement is recommended.

Implementation: This policy will be communicated to all staff members, volunteers, foster caregivers & adopters involved in the care and placement of solo kittens, it will be integrated into our standard operating procedures and reviewed regularly to ensure its effectiveness in promoting the welfare of animals.

By adhering to this policy, our organisation is committed to providing the best possible care for solo kittens, ensuring that they have had the opportunity to thrive in a supportive and enriching environment with the compassion of their fellow felines.