



## *Support Agreement Between Partners for Cats and Caregivers*

**Partners for Cats** agrees to assist, on an as-needed basis, any person who rescues one or more cats or kittens. (The word “cat” throughout the remainder of this document refers to both adult cats and kittens.)

Assistance includes, but is not limited to:

- Providing funding to a veterinarian for spaying/neutering (when appropriate) and required vaccines. Ear mite, worm and flea treatments will be provided either in hand or at the veterinarian’s office on a case-by-case basis and only when pre-approved. Funding for all veterinary services will be paid directly to the veterinarian by Partners for Cats, not to the Caregiver.
- Providing funding for other *necessary* medical treatment, as determined *necessary* through coordination between the servicing veterinarian and Partners for Cats. (Note: Veterinary treatment – beyond basic, initial treatment described in the preceding paragraph – provided *without prior approval* by Partners for Cats will be **at the expense of the Caregiver, not Partners for Cats.**)
- Providing food, litter, or other essential items related to proper care and feeding of the rescued cat(s). Partners for Cats will purchase and provide support items/commodities to Caregivers. Partners for Cats will not provide money directly to Caregivers for the purpose of purchasing support items/commodities. (As an exception to this policy, if Caregivers receive approval from one of the Partners for Cats Operations Managers to purchase specific support items/commodities for their cats and turn receipts in to Partners for Cats, the Caregivers may receive monetary reimbursement for the purchases. No reimbursement will be made without proper receipts.)
- Recruiting a donating sponsor (or sponsors) for the cat(s), whenever possible.
- Helping the Caregiver find a suitable home (or homes) for the cat(s) by:
  - Posting photographs and descriptions of the cat(s) on adoption websites and in other available media
  - Assisting in getting useable photographs and in writing biographical information for the cat(s), as needed
  - Allowing Caregivers to show their cat(s) at adoption events, as space permits.
  - Providing the Caregiver with guidance on assessing the suitability of potential adopters for their cat(s).
  - Helping the Caregiver to succeed in saving a cat (or cats) and placing it (or them) in a good permanent home (or homes).

## Support Agreement Between Partners for Cats and Caregivers

Persons having or taking custody of a cat (or cats) that are offered assistance by Partners for Cats will be considered Caregivers under provisions of this agreement. They are not members or volunteers of the organization. They are considered, instead, to be clients of Partners for Cats, which serves as a resource to assist them in caring for the cat (or cats) and in finding a loving permanent home (or homes) for it (or them). Ownership and responsibility for the cat (or cats) remains with the Caregiver at all times until it (or they) are adopted, not with Partners for Cats. (Board members/volunteers of Partners for Cats may also be Caregivers, if they have a supported, rescued cat (or cats). The support these individuals receive for rescuing is considered separately from their status as Board members/volunteers of the organization.)

### **Caregivers** agree to:

- Accept full responsibility for the cat(s) they have rescued, understanding that the cat(s) is (are) their own responsibility, not the property of Partners for Cats.
- Provide responsible care for the cat(s) in their custody until the cat(s) is (are) adopted. Such care includes, but is not limited to, providing adequate shelter, fresh food and water refreshed twice daily, clean litter box(es) and socialization. Partners for Cats strongly encourages keeping the cats inside at all times. \* Any other arrangement may be agreed upon by the Operations Manager on a case by case basis after studying the situation.
- Coordinate with one of the Partners for Cats Operations Managers for approval to have the cat(s) spayed/neutered and vaccinated. This must be done when the cat reaches the appropriate age/weight (usually four months/four pounds) and is healthy enough for these procedures. If additional medical treatment is needed, contact Partners for Cats for approval prior to obtaining this treatment. \*
- Transport the cat(s) to and from the veterinarian designated by Partners for Cats to obtain the services listed in the preceding paragraph. \*\*
- Actively seek to find a good home for each rescued cat. If you decide to adopt the cat into your home, contact Partners for Cats so that information advertising the cat for adoption may be removed from media sites.
- Promptly provide good photographs and requested “biographical” information about the cat(s) to Partners for Cats for posting on adoption websites and in other available media. \*\*
- Transport the cat(s) to and from adoption event locations and remain to “market” the cat(s) during designated “show times.” \*\* (These events are commonly held on weekends.)
- Keep one of Partners for Cats Operations Managers informed weekly of the status of the cat(s) so that records may be kept up-to-date. This includes providing follow-up photographs of the cat(s), as appropriate, for maintaining currency of web/media posts. \*\*

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- Accept the cat(s) back into their care if an adoption is not successful and notify Partners for Cats if this happens.
- Understand that Partners for Cats does not charge adoption fees. If Partners for Cats has paid for veterinary procedures and/or supplies for a cat, and the Caregiver who has custody of that cat chooses to charge an adoption fee, the organization hopes that out of a sense of fairness, that fee would be donated to Partners for Cats so that more cats can be saved.

\* Each Caregiver will be assisted, on an as-needed basis. Needs will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

\*\* If assistance is needed, contact one of the Partners for Cats Operations managers.

### Caregivers for Community Cats agree to:

- Accept that the cats in the colony are not the property of Partners for Cats. Wherever the term “colony” is used in the following, the term “colonies” may also apply.
- Provide responsible care for the cats in the colony. Such care includes, but is not limited to, fresh food and water twice daily; adequate shelter, if possible; monitoring of cats for health problems and reporting critical health needs to Partners for Cats so that they can help if resources permit.
- Keep the feeding station clean and as unobtrusive as possible.
- Monitor the colony for cats that are already tame (strays) or that are young enough to be socialized. Continue socialization as much as possible. Consider working with Partners for Cats to get these cats adopted.
- Maintain a record for each cat to reflect, as a minimum, photo of cat, evidence of neuter, vaccinations and any other medical procedures, with dates.
- Practice Trap/Neuter/Vaccinate/Return and Eartip for cats in the colony. This could be done in conjunction with a teammate.
- Always obtain approval from the Treasurer/Operations Manager of Partners for Cats (or other designated individual) prior to obtaining any supplies or veterinary care for which you need assistance from Partners for Cats. **Failure to do so will mean the expense is your personal responsibility.**
- Read, in its entirety, the Alley Cat Allies “Colony Care Guide.” Regardless of how long you may have been caring for community cats, you may get additional good ideas from this document.

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**Caregiver and/or Community Cats Caregiver Acknowledgement**

I am entering into this agreement with Partners for Cats as a

- Caregiver       Caregiver for Community Cats

(Place a check-mark in one or both boxes above, as appropriate.)

This agreement is between Partners for Cats, a non-profit cat-centered organization of caregivers, supporters and advocates and

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

eMail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Partners for Cats Acknowledgement**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_