

Safe Haven Egypt (“SHE”) Contract

General Adoption Advice and Information

The adoption fee is £195 or local equivalent. We request a deposit of £75 or equivalent to be paid upon notification of a successful home check, and serves as a cat holding deposit. A “cooling off” period of 14 days following the payment of the deposit applies. Should you change your mind, your deposit will be refunded during this initial period.

After this time, the deposit is non-refundable. The remaining sum is to be paid within 72 hours of confirmation when the cat is due to travel. Should an adaptor be unable to pay the balance with the 72 hour window, SHE reserves the right to cancel the adoption unless exceptional circumstances apply. Please ensure you are fully committed to the cat before going forward with the adoption.

Transportation and travel expectations

The 'ready to travel' date that may be listed on a cat's profile is the earliest that a cat can travel; it is not a confirmation of travel on that date. SHE does its best to ensure that all cats ready to travel and with a home waiting for them reach their destination as soon as possible. However, journeys are subject to availability of flight parents, cargo planes, volunteers and can vary widely from country to country. The final payment will only be requested after travel plans have been arranged and booked. No cat will travel unless the adoption fee has been paid in full.

Integration process (week #1)

We recommend that you set up a safe room for your new cat to settle in before giving them the roam of the property. This room should have separate areas for feeding, a litter tray and lounging. If you are adopting a young kitten, a small space such as a bathroom will do fine. For a more mature cat, a spare bedroom or living room would be best. This is particularly crucial in a multi-pet household, where every effort should be made for the safe and gradual introduction of a newcomer. The SHE team is here to support you during this process. (See last page for detailed information on introduction in a multi-cat household).

Behavioural expectations

SHE does not put unsocialised cats up for adoption. However, some cats may take time to settle after their journey. As there is a range of personalities among humans, so there is among cats. Some will be inherently more outgoing as others will be shyer initially. During this adjustment period, it is expected that some cats will react fearfully (i.e.: hissing, hiding) to their new surroundings. Please make sure you are prepared to give them the time and space to fully trust their new guardian(s) and adapt to their new surroundings, sounds and smells, different language, and resident animals.

Health expectations

While all cats travel in the best certifiable health (verified by our own veterinary team in Cairo), the stress of travel may bring on symptoms such as nasal discharge, sneezing and coughing. This may present immediately or within a few days after arrival. Congestion/sneezing can also be brought on by the change in environment, as your cat is literally changing continents. It may take some time to adjust to different temperatures and humidity as well as new allergens that might be present in their new home/location that they did not encounter in Cairo. This can include things like pollen, scented cat litter, different laundry detergents, etc. The SHE team is available to discuss individual cases and provide additional advice as needed.

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SHE has veterinary care on-site at the Haven for five out of the seven days of the week to look after the well-being of our cats. However, there is certain diagnostic testing, equipment and expertise that simply do not exist locally. As mentioned during your home check, we recommend that you take out pet insurance (if applicable for your location) or other plan.

Aside from rabies, your cat will be vaccinated against three or four other cat diseases, depending on which combination we have available. All cats receive vaccination against feline viral rhinotracheitis (FVR) caused by feline herpesvirus-1, feline respiratory disease caused by feline calicivirus (FCV), and feline panleukopenia caused by feline parvovirus (FPV). In the four-combo vaccine, cats also receive immunization against chlamydia.

Note that just like the UK and most European countries, there is no vaccine available against FIV in Egypt. Additionally, there are no tests available in Egypt to check if a cat is positive for feline herpes or calicivirus. We are able to offer testing for FIV/FelV; we just ask that the adopter pay the cost of our test kit (currently £15 or equivalent). If you opt for this testing, you will receive the result before your cat travels.

Whilst our vet will remove an obviously rotten tooth during the spay/neuter procedure, there is no capability for dental work in Egypt – neither the tools, the equipment, nor the training. Once your cat has settled in, please take them to the vet for a check-up. Ideally, you should time your initial vet check to coincide with the end of your insurance waiting period. From the time that your cat arrives, you accept all responsibility for said animal, including veterinary costs.

PLEASE INITIAL HERE TO CONFIRM THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS: -----

Spay/neuter and check-ups

All our cats have been spayed/neutered and vaccinated. We do recommend yearly check-ups and booster shots. The vaccination booklet clearly lists the dates that the next round of booster shots are due. Please consult your local vet in regards to responsible cat health maintenance.

Microchipping

All cats are microchipped at the Haven. Once they arrive at their destination, it is your responsibility as the adopter to register the chip. In the UK, we recommend using PetLog or Identibase. In the US, we recommend using PetLink.net (connected to the accredited AAHA). Your cat's microchip number will be inside the vaccination booklet. Make sure to give these details to your vet as well. Failure to register the chip will constitute a breach of the adoption agreement.

Pets are family

All SHE cats are to be treated as family. They are not to become working animals and should not be used in any activity that may be detrimental to their well-being, be it for entertainment or monetary gain.

Inability to continue caring for the cat, post-adoption

New adopters must advise the SHE team immediately of any change in circumstances which would mean that the cat is not getting the attention or care previously agreed upon. If your housing situation or other major upheaval is taking place, leaving your cat in a situation that needs to be addressed, please contact a member of the SHE Admin team.

Our ability to check on the welfare of your cat

In certain exceptional circumstances, we may decide to check on your cat. By adopting from SHE, you agree to allow a representative of the Haven to check on the welfare of your cat(s) at any time. If, in the interest of the cat, the representative deems the conditions or care not appropriate, or if the cat is viewed to be at risk, you agree to return the cat to the care of an appointed representative of SHE immediately.

After the adoption of your cat, we will message you to set up a brief call periodically to see how your cat is settling in. These follow-up's are also your chance to get any needed advice from SHE.

Re-homing

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No SHE cats are to be re-homed without the knowledge and consent of the SHE team. Unless specified otherwise, cats should be returned to the care of the SHE Admin team, or a specified foster home arranged by SHE. The SHE Admin team will manage the process to find a new, appropriate home. Any veterinary records (including the ones that came from the Haven) that can be handed over with your cat would be appreciated, as well as your vet's contact details.

Insurance

In countries where pet insurance is common, it is highly recommended. We can provide you with recommendations of several firms used by our adopters. SHE does not, however, accept responsibility for your experience with the insurer, or their agreement or refusal to cover your cat or certain conditions. If you choose to take out insurance, we recommend setting it up immediately when your cat arrives.

Keeping your cat safe

As discussed during your home check, your SHE cat is to be kept strictly as an indoor pet. They may be allowed outdoors only within a secure catio, a cat-proofed garden (including appropriate wire or net "ceiling"), or on a harness/lead. Your cat is not to be permitted outdoors in a garden unless on a harness/lead or if the garden is cat-proofed, by confirmed by the SHE team. Simply being outdoors "under supervision," without a cat-proof garden or on a harness/lead is not appropriate.

Stay in touch

Please feel free to share your experience, questions and life with your cat with us on our adopters' Facebook group: Where Are They Meow?

N.B.: Safe Haven Egypt does not condone animal euthanasia as a response to non-terminal conditions; under no circumstances should a SHE cat be put to sleep in such a situation. The SHE team should be contacted immediately to discuss the situation and must be given authority to take guardianship of the cat in lieu of euthanasia. Before committing to a cat - especially one with special needs - please take the steps to understand the responsibility of long-term cat care. Adopting a cat will involve not only caring for them as they come to you but continuously adapting your home and life to their needs so that your feline companion may live a happy, fulfilled life.

I have read and understood the above. If I fail in any way to comply with the terms of this agreement, or if SHE considers it to be in the animal's interest, a Representative of SHE may take possession of the cat(s).

Printed name of adopter

Signature and date

Name(s) of SHE cat(s) being adopted/microchip number(s)

Initials: _____

PET INTEGRATION

Welcoming a new cat home can bring on territorial insecurities, even in the most well-socialised cats. With that in mind, we advise you introduce a newcomer gradually to any and all resident pets. This can be done by not only setting up a safe room for your new cat (as mentioned above) but working through a series of steps.

- **Scent swapping:** give both new and resident cats items for rubbing, scratching, or lying in (i.e.: beds, blankets, cardboard scratchers). Once an item is fully marked with their scent, place it in the area where the other is, and vice versa. This allows for the cats to familiarise themselves with new scents as well as associating them with neutral or positive items.
- **Site swapping:** once your new cat demonstrates a notable comfort level in their safe space, give them the opportunity to explore the other's territory, and vice versa. This should be done while avoiding that the cats meet face-to-face. This step helps in establishing territorial confidence as well as presents an opportunity for key signposts (i.e.: cat trees, litter boxes) to take on a shared scent.
- **Feeding ritual:** bring your cats closer every day by feeding them on each side of a closed door or gate, until you have them eat 'in front' of each other without hesitation or signs of discomfort.
- **Introduction:** once all cats are comfortable in each other's scents and theoretical presence, make use of play, food and affection to create an environment where negative association is avoided at all costs. In order to create a high-value experience for your cats, begin by engaging one in play (with treats for encouragement, if needed) and, once fully engaged, have someone bring the other cat(s) into the room. Engage them in play as well and sustain the momentum for as long as you deem appropriate, depending on their energy levels. Feed them on either side of the room and repeat the process every day at meal times, until the cats are fully comfortable with one another.

There is no "one size fits all" approach to cat integration. It may take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks for cats to become comfortable and/or tolerant of each other. Patience is the best approach

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