

# Meryl walks the aisle again

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# Cat Adoption Checklist

by Petfinder

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## SARA KENT, PETFINDER.COM DIRECTOR OF SHELTER OUTREACH

Congratulations on adopting a cat! You are embarking on a wonderful and rewarding relationship. Because adopting a new cat comes with a lot of change for both cat and cat parent, we've compiled a checklist to help make the transition as smooth as possible.



Thinkstock

### Questions for All Adopters:

- Do you have any other pets and how will they react to a new cat?
- Is your current residence suited to the cat you're considering?
- How will your social life or work obligations affect your ability to care for a cat?
- Do you have a plan for your new cat during vacations and/or work travel?
- How do the people you live with feel about having a cat in the house?
- Are you (or your spouse, partner or roommate) intolerant of hair, dirt and other realities of sharing your home with a cat, such as allergies?
- Do you or any of your household/family members have health issues that may be affected by a cat?
- What breed is the best fit with your current lifestyle? (You can find information on specific breeds in our [cat breed directory](#).)
- Is there tension in the home? Pets quickly pick up on stress in the home, and it can exacerbate their health and behavior problems.
- Is there an adult in the family who has agreed to be ultimately responsible for the cat's care?

### Other Considerations:

- If you are thinking of adopting a young cat, do you have the time and patience to work with the pet through its adolescence, taking playing, training and energy-level into account?
- Have you considered your lifestyle carefully and determined whether a younger or older cat would be a better match for you?
- Can you train and handle a cat with behavior issues or are you looking for an easy-going friend?
- Do you need a cat who will be reliable with children or one you can take with you when you travel?
- Do you want a cat who follows you all around the house or would you prefer a less clingy, more independent character?



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## Meryl ties the knot at age 67

She says it's just too obvious. Guess who he is!

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