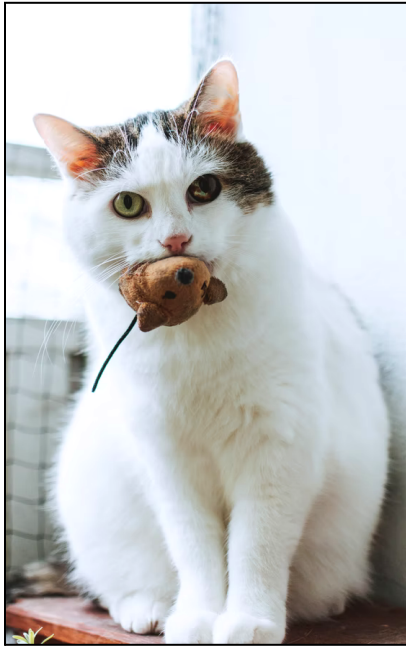




# Cats and Mice



If you have a mouse problem, and you think a cat is a solution, you might be right! But are you also looking for a feline companion? Adopting a cat is a commitment to providing them care, attention, and a loving home for their entire lives.

You also might be disappointed to find that your mouse problem remains a problem. Though cats are natural hunters, not all have a killer instinct. Hunting to kill is a learned behavior, and many domestic cats are generations removed from having to do it for themselves. They might love to track your mice, play with your mice, and maybe even catch and release them, but some cats have no interest in killing them.

**Note:** While there is some evidence that the smell of a cat can deter mice, if mice are hungry enough, they'll risk it without hesitation. Having a cat might have some impact on your mouse population, but don't expect a magic fix!

Having a cat will limit the other methods of rodent control that you can use. **Poison** is not safe to use if you own a cat because they can ingest it directly or indirectly if they catch a mouse that has ingested it. Before bringing a new cat home, remove any poison mouse traps from your home and wait a week to reduce the risk. **Physical traps** like spring traps and sticky traps can also be dangerous to cats and would need to be placed thoroughly out of reach. Cats can surprise you – they're able to access very small places, so make sure any traps are truly inaccessible to your feline companion!

We also occasionally have cats that have strong hunting instincts, but often this is accompanied by a tendency for rough play and overstimulation, so these cats might not be suited for every home.

**Questions? Reach out!**

[adoptions@phillypaws.org](mailto:adoptions@phillypaws.org) | 215-298-9680 ext. 30