



Taking your new cat home.....

Cats, by nature hate change. When we take cats into our care and search for permanent homes, we change their entire worlds. Helping your new kitty adjust to your home may take some time and patience.

Some of the cats at our adoption centers have been confined to cages or single rooms while in our care. They may feel overwhelmed and frightened by the expanse of their strange new surroundings. Their natural reaction may be to hide until they feel safe. ***They may also refuse to eat. If our new kitty refuses to eat for four days or more, contact us immediately. We can help. Rapid weight loss can put your cat's life at risk.***

All animals can carry and transmit diseases, some of which may affect other animals and/or people. These diseases may be undetectable in what appears to be a healthy cat at the time of adoption. We recommend that you keep your new cat(s) isolated for a minimum of seven (7) to ten (10) days.

To help your kitty adjust to its new home, we recommend the following:

- Set up a **safe room** for your kitty prior to taking her home. Include litter box, food and water bowls, bed, scratching post or pad, and toys. The room should have a door to keep closed and a few places to hide within your reach.
- Keep your kitty confined to this room until he feels comfortable and safe in the room and with you. It may take a few hours, a few days, or a few weeks.
- Spend time with your new kitty often. Talk softly. Move slowly. Offer toys to play with. Pet your new kitty and softly repeat her name in a reassuring tone.
- When your kitty seems comfortable in the new surroundings and with you, open the door and let him venture out to explore the rest of the home. Leave the door to his room open so he can go back to his safe place when he wants.
- When your new kitty is comfortable with access to the whole house, it is OK to move the litter box, food and water bowls, and bed to places that are more convenient for you.
- Remember that even the friendliest cats are more comfortable approaching you than to be approached by you. Some cats do not like to be picked up, but may love to jump up on your lap or lie beside you in bed.

If there is another pet in your home:

- It is not uncommon for cats that have been in adoption centers to develop "colds" after going to their new homes due to the stress they are experiencing. These colds can be contagious to your resident kitty. If your new kitty shows any symptoms of a "cold", keep him isolated until all symptoms have passed and obtain veterinary care to help him recover.
- Do not immediately and abruptly place the new kitty and resident pet(s) together. Let your pets sniff each other while the new kitty is still in her carrier. Then take the new kitty to her **safe room**.
- Don't be discouraged by hissing or growling at their first meetings. That is normal behavior.
- After the isolation period, introduce your pets to each other gradually. Start with short periods of interaction then return Kitty to her **safe room**.
- Don't leave the pets together unattended until you are certain that they have accepted each other.

Take time to get to know your new kitty and give him plenty of time to get to know, trust, and love you.

Thank you for opening your heart and home to a homeless kitty. We wish you years of love and purrs.