

Welcome to the Family

Thank you for welcoming a shelter cat into your home! This transition is exciting but can be stressful and scary for some cats. A little patience goes a long way in ensuring a successful and happy life together. Here's a quick guide to help kickstart a smooth transition for you and your new kitty!



Ensuring Success at Home



Provide a safe room for kitty. A smaller space helps your cat get used to the sights, sounds, and smells of your home without feeling overwhelmed. Bedrooms, offices, or bathrooms work well, but avoid noisy areas such as laundry rooms!



Place the cat carrier inside the safe room and let kitty come out on their own. They may stay there for a while and that's okay! Don't pull them out. Providing them with a cardboard box, bag, or basket may lure them out sooner.



While it's tempting to immediately introduce your new kitty to children and your other pets, it's not the best way to make them feel safe. Gradually introduce them over the course of a week or two for best long-term results.



If your kitty is being shy, spend time in the room with them talking or reading aloud. You can offer treats or wet food while sitting next to them, or toys just out of reach so they'll stretch out and play!



Your kitty may feel safest exploring their new area at night. If you see that kitty has eaten and used the litterbox overnight they are exploring when they feel most comfortable.



Once your kitty starts to feel comfortable in their safe room, you can open the door and encourage them to explore the rest of the house while still giving them their own space to return to as needed.

Did You Know?

While some cats are immediately at ease in new situations, shy kitties can take 2-4 weeks to begin to open up in their new home.



It is normal for some cats to not eat for the first 1-3 days while transitioning to a new place.



We have resources for cat owners on the back of this page.



But please call or email us with concerns you may have!

Feeding:

HAP will send you with the food that your cat has been eating. If you are going to change brands, you can mix the two to help minimize tummy troubles.



Day 1 & 2
75% Old Food
25% New Food



Day 3 & 4
50% Old Food
50% New Food



Day 5 & 6
25% Old Food
75% New Food



Day 7 & 8
100% New Food

For most young, healthy cats, let their preferences guide you to what food they like. For senior, obese, or cats with medical conditions, consult with your veterinarian. Also, be sure your kitty has plenty of fresh water daily. If your kitty is reluctant to drink, try a fountain!

Litter Box:

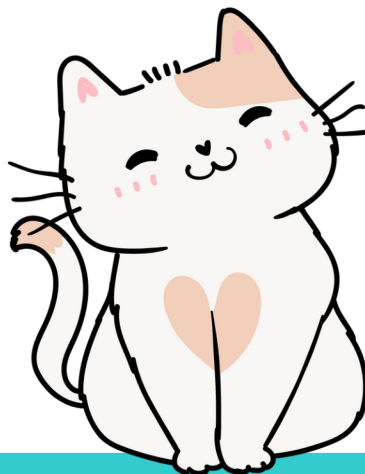
Most people like to set up the litter box in out of the way areas such as bathrooms, laundry rooms or spare rooms. Make sure the litter box is accessible to the kitty and not too hard to get into. Some kitties do not feel safe or have enough room in a litter box with a cover. Use unscented or mild scented, clumping litter and scoop the box once or twice a day. No one likes a dirty toilet! For multi-cat households the standard is one for each cat, plus an extra.

Scratching:

Scratching is a very important behavior for cats, and while they may not need to use their claws defensively in a home, scratching and good nail health are important. Provide several sources for scratching: large vertical cat trees or standing scratchers as well as cardboard horizontal scratching pads. Entice your kitty by applying cat nip to the scratcher and give treats as a reward when kitty uses it. If kitty scratches furniture, remove and redirect them. You can also buy double-sided pet tape to deter kitty away from unwanted surfaces.

Resources

- Catster.com
- PetKeen.com
- Catfriendly.com
- Cats.com



Mark Your Calendar!

Kitty Needs:
Annual Vet Check
Vaccines
Nail Trims