




INTRODUCING A CAT INTO YOUR HOME


Every cat and kitten are different in personality and in their experiences before arriving to their new home. Some may take shorter or longer to adjust. Some may have a shy, reserved, or outgoing personality. With a little planning and patience, you can help them get comfortable! It may take several days to even a couple of months for a cat to get completely at ease and settled into a new home, and that is completely normal.

LOW STRESS SET UP


 Before letting your cat loose in your home, set up your cat's temporary living area in a quiet, second bedroom or small room with a door that can be closed. This room should not be a busy room that people are in and out of. As a general rule, unless there is a specific reason (such as medical or specific behavioral concern) you have been told about, we do not recommend keeping the cat in a bathroom because it gets loud from toilets flushing and the shower running. This can lead to cats feeling trapped or defensive.


 Set up a "hidey bed" or cat cave in that room. Cats tend to feel safe in beds that have a roof on them. This can even be a cardboard box with an entryway cut into it and a blanket inside. The more hidey beds, the better. Place the cat's food, water, litterbox(es), toys, and scratch pads in that room all within a few inches of the entrance to the hidey bed so your cat can easily get to them.


 If you cannot put your cat in its own room, you can set up multiple hidey beds in the living space, avoiding high traffic, loud areas. Also place the food, water, litterbox(es), toys, and scratch pads in that room all within a few inches of the entrance to the hidey bed so your cat can easily get to them.

 Completely block off any areas in the living space that will be difficult to get a cat out from- such as under the bed, behind a bookcase, etc. Cats should have a hiding place where they feel safe, but it has to be one that if needed you can easily get your cat out from without causing a lot of stress to your cat, or possibly get scratched or injured. That's why cats should have hidey beds to retreat to.


LET YOUR CAT TAKE THE LEAD

 Since your cat is in a new, strange environment, let them tell and show you when they are ready to interact with you. Do not corner them or force interactions like petting or picking them up. Let them approach you on their own time and wait for them to ask for pets and cuddles. This may take days to weeks.

 For at least the first several days only go into their living space to feed/clean food water bowls and to change the litterbox and to make sure they are doing well.

 Wait at least several days until trying to initiate play with your cat. At first leave toys for them that they can play with on their own. Once they are more comfortable, you can progress to trying to use cat toys to play and interact with them.

EACH CAT IS UNIQUE

 We have provided general guidelines and every cat adjusts on a different timeline and in different ways. The most important thing to remember is that new pets should be able to take their time to adjust to a new home. When they are ready to interact with you, they will. The best way to support them is to give them some breathing room while keeping an eye on them to make sure they have a good appetite, are urinating and defecating, and appear healthy.