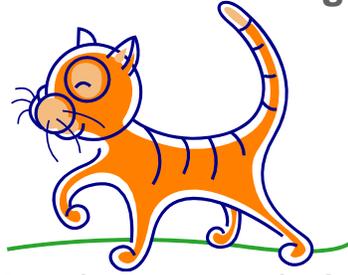


Top 9 Things To Do Before You Bring Your New Cat Home



Congratulations!! You've just entered into a wonderful relationship that's bound to be filled with fun and affection. By starting off on the right foot and by being well-prepared you can move through the adjustment period very smoothly.



1. Make Sure Everyone In The House Is Prepared To Have A Cat

Talk to your family members before bringing a new cat home. Make sure everyone knows that the fun begins only after kitty feels safe and its needs are met. Once you're sure everyone is ready for feeding, litter changing and grooming, you can divvy up chores among family members so everyone is prepared to care for kitty before it arrives.



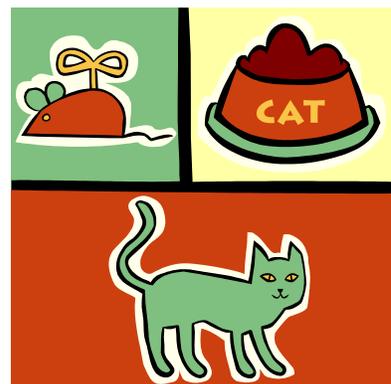
2. Do You Know What Your Cat Is Trying To Tell You?

The average cat has a vocabulary of more than 16 different sounds, including purring, howling, hissing and meowing—not to mention a wide-range of playful and serious body language. Take the time to learn your cat's language.

3. Stock Up On Supplies Before Kitty Arrives

Have all of your cat's needs ready so it can get right down to the business of feeling at home. Kitty will need:

- A litter box and the brand of litter she's been using
- Food and water bowls and the food she's used to eating
- A sturdy, rough-textured scratching post—at least three feet high—that allows it to stretch completely while scratching
- **Safe, stimulating toys.** Hint: If you give your kitty toys that make noises, you'll know when its playing.
- A bed lined with a soft, warm blanket or towel
- Grooming tools: a high-quality brush and nail clipper are a good start



Do Not Disturb



4. A Room Of One's Own

Choose a low-traffic room your kids and other pets don't frequent—this will be your cat's safe space to sniff, eat, scratch and play while it gets familiar with its surroundings. Arrange the food and water bowls, bed and litter box—and scatter the toys around. You can even clean off a windowsill for your kitty and have soft music playing. The kitty will appreciate the chance to feel out the new family from inside a safe haven.



5. Routine Behavior

Give your cat a little structure to lean on. For the first few weeks, provide him with the same kind of food and feeding schedule he had before living with you—and give him the same brand of litter, too, for a familiar scent and feel on his paws. Later on, if you wish to switch to different products, you can make a slow transition.

6. What's New, Pussycat?

With a whole new life in store, Kitty will need some time and space to check out the surroundings and all of the new play things. Give kitty some time alone in its new room to get comfortable before you come in to play. If you have other pets, it's a good idea to leave your new cat in their own room for a few days. This will allow the other animals in the house to get used to the new sounds and scent. (Hint: Watch from the door to see how kitty leaves the carrier. Whether kitty pussyfoots into a dark corner or zooms out into the room, you'll know how it feels about the new surroundings.)

7. Introducing Kitty To The Pack

Go slow at first. A cat may need seven to fourteen days to relax into their new environment. If you have kids, let them introduce themselves one at a time. Hold up on the meet-and-greets with friends, neighbors and relatives until your kitty is eating and eliminating on a normal schedule. If you have other pets, don't let your new addition have free run of the house. This is the territory of the animals who have lived with you already. Allow all of your pets to meet in the new cat's territory—and make sure you're there to supervise.



8. Cat-Proof Your Home



When your cat is ready to explore the rest of its new home (for short excursions at first), be sure to get rid of stray items they might chew on or swallow, like toilet paper, tissues and paper towels. Pens and pencils may need to be kept in drawers. You may also have to tape wires to baseboards and put caps on outlets.

Put away harsh cleaning products, human medications and household poisons, and rehome any houseplants that might be toxic to her. Make sure foods that aren't healthy for a cat's tummy are placed securely out of reach.

9. Visit The Vet Within the First Week

Last but not least, bring your new feline to a caring veterinarian for a wellness exam within one week after adoption.

