

Welcoming Your New Cat



A gentle integration of your feline companion to her new environment will help ensure a good start and a happy life together.

You must be patient while your cat gets used to her new home. The adjustment period may vary from one cat to another and can last from a few days to several weeks.

By granting your new cat sufficient time to adapt, you will establish a trusting relationship with her.

Helpful tips to facilitate kitty's arrival and adaptation

Your cat must adapt to the noises and smells of her new home and define her new territory. Here are some tricks to help with her adaptation.

- Calmly introduce your new feline companion to your family members. If other animals live with you, please refer to the leaflet *"Votre chat et les autres animaux de la famille"*.
- Let her explore the interior of your house as she pleases.
- Show her where her bowls, bed, litter, etc. are.
- Let the cat carrier in which you carried her between the shelter and your home close by; it constitutes a safe place where she can take refuge. You can also put toys and a blanket which will gradually take on her smell.
- Make sure that she has access, at all times, to a place in the house where she can retreat.
- Establish a daily routine; a stable environment helps cats feel safe.



Living in harmony with kitty...

- Put her food, litter, and bed in separate spots.
- Feed her good quality food, adapted to her needs (table scraps and milk may cause diarrhea).
- Respect her dietary and relaxation needs; don't disturb her when she is eating or sleeping.
- Set up a play area for her. For suggestions, please refer to the leaflets "*Les besoins de votre chat*" and "*Allez hop! À l'entraînement*"

When playing, avoid teasing her with your fingers or your hand because she might bite you; also avoid chasing her or manipulating her excessively.

- Try to find the right balance between play and rest periods. Play with her more than once a day (avoid long periods of inactivity) and at appropriate moments (games right before bedtime puts you at risk for a reckless night...).
- To avoid neutralizing your cat's odour (which she finds calming), do not use strong soaps or perfumes.
- Avoid punishments (spanking, isolation and screaming) which will only aggravate the problem and increase her stress.

Checklist...

The Essentials

- ✓ Quality cat food adapted to your pet's needs
- ✓ Breakaway or elastic collar and identification tag
- ✓ Litter, box, and scoop
- ✓ Food and water bowls

The Very Practical

- ✓ Pet carrier
- ✓ Scratching post (hiding place, hammock, cat shelf)
- ✓ Blanket
- ✓ Toys (bean bag, mouse, etc.)
- ✓ Brush, comb, nails clipper
- ✓ Shampoo, ear cleaner, toothbrush and toothpaste
- ✓ Laxative paste (for hairballs)