

Shopping list:

- Litter box and scoop
- Litter (clay litter for kittens)
- Cat food (we suggest Purina Cat/Kitten Chow)
- Dishes(one for food and a few for water)
- Scratching post
- Bed
- Interactive toys
- Brush, comb, and nail clippers
- Cat carrier (appropriately sized for cat)
- Feline first aid kit
- Veterinarian

Are you thinking of adopting a kitten or a cat?



Adoption Adaption TIPS

Having a successful adoption is all about the following:

- Time
- Items
- Preparation
- Space



Time

→ **Time to adjust** - A feline can feel quite overwhelmed, shy & nervous in their new home and will need time (at least a few weeks) to decompress & adjust.



- ◆ Allow your new feline 10 days in the smaller location/room to adjust before allowing time to roam, meet other pets, etc. However, when this does occur for the first time, supervision should be provided for about 24-48 hours.

- ◆ It is best to introduce your new cat to any others after they have eaten and, preferably, when they would normally take their naps.



- ◆ Do not leave them alone for more than a four-hour stretch to ensure they have plenty of water and have not gotten into any dangerous situations

- ◆ As they age, they will be perfectly happy waiting for you to return from work to play with them.

→ **Time to play** - Play keeps the feline's brain engaged and helps them develop positive socialization skills.

- ◆ Spending time playing and bonding with your new feline family member will certainly reduce their stress and most likely yours, too!



- ◆ Use toys that are on a stick to teach your feline that hands are not toys.

→ **Time for care** - Cats will groom themselves, but additional time brushing will keep their coat shiny and will help reduce shedding and hairballs

- ◆ Brushing should be done at least weekly, but maybe daily dependent on their coat and season of the year

- ◆ Cats will also care for their own nails if provided a proper place to scratch, such as a scratching post. However, your cat will need his/her nails clipped every 2-3 weeks

Space

→ **Space to call their own** - Just as humans like to have their own area to retreat to, animals are much the same way.

- ◆ It is highly recommended to set-up a closed area/room with a comfy bed, soft warm blanket, and some catnip toys for them to adjust by themselves. This will be considered their safe-haven and they can retreat to this area anytime they would like. However, keep them in this area during the entire adjustment period.

- ◆ Set-up cat condos and trees with access to windows for your feline to have Cat TV all day watching outside activities like birds, squirrels, etc.

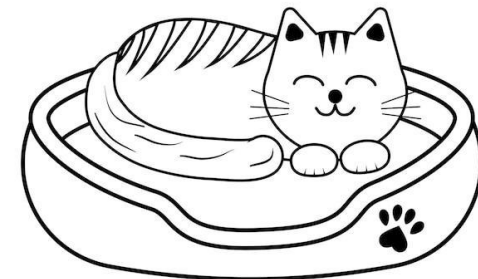


- ◆ If you have more than one pet, you can feed your pets on opposite sides of a door so they can smell each other, but not see each other. This will also reinforce positive feelings as they will associate each other with yummy food.

- ◆ Keep litter boxes away from loud areas in the house so the feline does not get scared when using it.

- ◆ Block off nooks that are dangerous for cats to explore (ex: under large appliances, behind furniture, in basement crawl spaces)

- ◆ Place breakables and plants out of reach, especially poisonous plants



Items (see shopping list on back cover)

→ The Basics

◆ Litter and Box

- Ask what litter and box the feline used while at the shelter. However, you can try different types of litter and boxes as, believe it or not, some felines are particular about where they go to the bathroom.
- It is a good idea to have one litter box per cat, plus an extra as some felines can be territorial.
- Be sure to scoop your cat's box daily and do a deep clean at least once a week.



◆ Food and Water



○ Use high-quality food and ask the shelter, when you adopt, what food the feline is currently eating. Slowly introduce new food, if needed. Otherwise, it will cause diarrhea for the feline.

- Provide canned cat food twice a day according to the package label (no seafood for kittens). Throw away leftover canned food after 30 minutes.
- Free-feed your cat dry food which can be left out all day.
- Avoid human foods, plants, cleaners, etc. that are toxic to felines.
- Be sure clean water is always available. Since cats tend to drink less water than they need, set-up water bowls in different places in your home for your feline to easily access. Milk is unnecessary and could cause an upset stomach.

◆ Toys and such

- Condos and trees near a window
- Cat scratchers to save your furniture and clean their claws! Spray with a catnip spray to attract the cat to use it.
- Self-gratifying toys such as small stuffed mice or balls or those that contain a ball in a track.
- Don't forget toys that you can enjoy with your cat!

Preparation

→ Prepare all family members



- ◆ Educate your children on the best way to approach a feline. For example, not many cats can be picked-up and held and many do not like being petted or playing rough.
- ◆ Teach your child appropriate ways to play with your cat using safe cat toys.
- ◆ Teach the difference between teasing and playing.
- ◆ Teach children to properly handle a cat. An adult cat should never be picked up by the scruff of the neck. Show children how to support the cat under the chest with one hand, while supporting the hindquarters with the other.
- ◆ Model the proper behavior by treating your cat with affection and respect at all times.
- ◆ Involve older children in caring for your cat. Seven- to eight-year-olds can replenish food and water bowls; ten year olds can gently brush the cat and even help keep the litter pan clean.
- ◆ Educate your child. Borrow books about cats from the library and/or watch videos online.
- ◆ Teach children to close the door! Many indoor cats have gotten injured or lost when children inadvertently left the outside door open.



→ Prepare your new member for his/her new family

- ◆ Share children and pet blankets with your new feline family member so they can get familiar with their scents.

→ Prepare for your cat's healthcare with a veterinarian

- ◆ Don't forget to schedule an appointment for spaying and neutering. This is not only a requirement of the adoption, but it also helps your pet lead a happier, healthier life. We offer a low cost spay/neuter program.

Items (see shopping list on back cover)

→ The Basics

◆ Litter and Box

- Ask what litter and box the feline used while at the shelter. However, you can try different types of litter and boxes as, believe it or not, some felines are particular about where they go to the bathroom.
- It is a good idea to have one litter box per cat, plus an extra as some felines can be territorial.
- Be sure to scoop your cat's box daily and do a deep clean at least once a week.



◆ Food and Water



○ Use high-quality food and ask the shelter, when you adopt, what food the feline is currently eating. Slowly introduce new food, if needed. Otherwise, it will cause diarrhea for the feline.

- Provide canned cat food twice a day according to the package label (no seafood for kittens). Throw away leftover canned food after 30 minutes.
- Free-feed your cat dry food which can be left out all day.
- Avoid human foods, plants, cleaners, etc. that are toxic to felines.
- Be sure clean water is always available. Since cats tend to drink less water than they need, set-up water bowls in different places in your home for your feline to easily access. Milk is unnecessary and could cause an upset stomach.

◆ Toys and such

- Condos and trees near a window
- Cat scratchers to save your furniture and clean their claws! Spray with a catnip spray to attract the cat to use it.
- Self-gratifying toys such as small stuffed mice or balls or those that contain a ball in a track.
- Don't forget toys that you can enjoy with your cat!

Preparation

→ Prepare all family members



- ◆ Educate your children on the best way to approach a feline. For example, not many cats can be picked-up and held and many do not like being petted or playing rough.
- ◆ Teach your child appropriate ways to play with your cat using safe cat toys.
- ◆ Teach the difference between teasing and playing.

- ◆ Teach children to properly handle a cat. An adult cat should never be picked up by the scruff of the neck. Show children how to support the cat under the chest with one hand, while supporting the hindquarters with the other.
- ◆ Model the proper behavior by treating your cat with affection and respect at all times.
- ◆ Involve older children in caring for your cat. Seven- to eight-year-olds can replenish food and water bowls; ten year olds can gently brush the cat and even help keep the litter pan clean.
- ◆ Educate your child. Borrow books about cats from the library and/or watch videos online.
- ◆ Teach children to close the door! Many indoor cats have gotten injured or lost when children inadvertently left the outside door open.



→ Prepare your new member for his/her new family

- ◆ Share children and pet blankets with your new feline family member so they can get familiar with their scents.

→ Prepare for your cat's healthcare with a veterinarian

- ◆ Don't forget to schedule an appointment for spaying and neutering. This is not only a requirement of the adoption, but it also helps your pet lead a happier, healthier life. We offer a low cost spay/neuter program.