



Bringing Your New Cat Home

Congratulations! You have a new cat. No doubt you're looking forward to years of happy companionship. But what do you do now?

Be prepared

Before bringing your new love home, outfit your home with all the supplies you could possibly need.

Coming home

The first thing you should know about your new pet is that most cats hate to travel. For the trip home, confine your pet in a sturdy cat carrier. Don't leave them loose in your car, where they might panic and cause an accident, or get out when you open the car door. They may yowl and cry and try mightily to get out of the carrier, but don't give in.

Upon arrival

After the ride home, she will, most likely, not be in the mood for fun. To make her transition to your household as comfortable as possible, select a quiet, closed-in area, such as your bedroom or a small room away from the main foot traffic, and provide her with a litter box, food and water, toys, and a scratching post.

Let your new pet become acquainted with that limited area for the first few days. Be sure to spend plenty of time with her in that room, but if she's hiding under the bed, don't force her to come out. If necessary, sit on the floor to talk to her and offer treats. Let her sniff all your belongings and investigate all the hiding places.

Your new cat may be full of self-confidence and itching to get out and make herself at home. Or she may be more of a shrinking violet who needs more time to adjust.

Avoid conflict when bringing a new cat into the family by carefully introducing them to any other pets.

The first week

Over a few days, slowly help your cat become familiar with the rest of the family, including other pets and household members. Make sure she always have access to "her" room so she can retreat to it if she feels nervous. It will take a little while, but she'll eventually start to feel comfortable at home.

Cats vary in terms of how demanding they are as pets, so let yours guide you to the level of attention they want, whether it's your hand for petting, or your lap for sitting. Provide them with the necessary creature comforts and give them the companionship they seek, and they'll be content.

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About Napa Humane

The Humane Society of Napa County and SPCA, known as Napa Humane, is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1973. Recognizing that companion animals are an important part of healthy communities, we've grown to consider Napa Humane a community service organization. Our programs and services are designed to address the needs of animals – and also to provide support, education, and assistance for all the people who care for and about them.

Napa Humane is a private and independent organization that is supported by private donations by individuals and businesses, bequests, and fees for service. We receive no government funding, tax dollars or funding from national animal welfare organizations.

Our Mission

To promote the welfare of companion animals through protection, advocacy, education, and by example.