



Cats

The First Few Days

Your new cat is embarking on a journey to a fun and wonderful life. You are aware of all the joys that lie ahead, but your cat does not know what is happening. The first few days can be very stressful for your cat. Be patient and take things slowly.

A frightened or unsure cat's tendency is to hide. Let him do that and know that he will eventually become comfortable and come out. Under no circumstances should you force a cat from its hiding place by pulling its legs or other body parts. Coax gently with food or a toy. Use lots of praise to reinforce desired behavior.

What to Expect While Settling In

Do not be alarmed if your new cat exhibits any of the following behaviors in the first few days:

- Not eating
- Sniffing everything
- Upset tummy, vomiting, loose stools
- Hiding (sometimes for days)
- Not using the litter box (See *Litter Training Sheet*)

Things You Can Do to Help

- Be Calm and Patient!
- At first, keep your cat in a small room, such as the bathroom (make sure the toilet lid is down) with the litter box at one end and food, water and a bed at the other, to give him time to adjust.
- Gradually give your pet more freedom as he successfully goes back to his litter box. Allow several weeks for your new pet to adjust.
- Keep your cat indoors. Check for open windows and loose screens, as a frightened cat could easily break out. It can take up to a month for your new cat to feel at home.
- Initially, keep your new cat separated from other pets. (See *Introducing Your Cat Sheet*)
- It is best not to introduce your kitten/cat to your home during very busy times, such as birthdays and holidays. If you do, provide them with a quiet area away from the action and limit over handling of the new cat. Baby gates work nicely to keep people and dogs out of the cat's safe room.

Strengthening the Bond Between Pets and People

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