

## Bringing Your Kitten Home



### A Step-By-Step Guide

You've anxiously waited for your kitten to be big enough to come home. You've picked him or her up at the airport and are finally home with your new bundle of fluff...

Now what?

Below is a step-by-step instruction guide on how to make the transition process for your kitten as smooth and least stressful as possible!

### Our Recommendations

- As with any new pet, you should start them off in a small section of your house. Most customers choose their master bedroom or guest room. *"But why not give my kitten the entire house to play in?"*

As you are aware, your kitten has lost the only home they have ever known, which is a lot to take in. Too much stimulation can cause anxiety and stress, or even illness. By giving your kitten a smaller space to adjust it will help them feel safe and confident. We've had many clients not follow our advice. They simply turn their kitten free the moment they arrive home and then not understand why kitty remains hidden under the

couch for a week! Your kitten is OVERWHELMED & scared. You can avoid this by segregating them from other pets and place them in 1 room only!

- Keep the door to this room shut for at least 72 hrs.
- Place the kitten carrier/pet taxi they have traveled in on the floor and open the door. Please let your kitten come out on his/her own time.
- Place food, water, and litter in the room near your kitten. They are all potty trained and will have no problems finding or using the litter pan.
- Provide your kitten with small toys with or even a kitty tower. Sprinkling some catnip is also a good idea as it is a natural stress reducer.
- We strongly urge all customers to keep a radio or TV on at all times in the room during the day. Cats become even more frightened when it is dead silent. The background noise helps them relax and become used to human voices. Here in our nursery we have a TV on which plays during the day. By providing one it will make your kitten feel more at home.
- Talk to your kitten frequently so he/she becomes used to your voice. You can even sit on the floor and let kitty come to you. NEVER chase your kitten around the room or pull him/her out from behind a piece of furniture. This will further traumatize them.
- After 7-10 days slightly open the door to the room your new kitten has been kept in and let them explore on their own! This way if they get frightened they always have the “safe space” room to retreat to.

## Always Use Patience and Understanding

Some kittens come out of the carrier purring away and ready to tackle the world and cover you with whisker kisses and head butts! However, others are timid, and we never quite know how each kitten will react to their new homes. The timid ones are what we've designed this article for, however, no matter the behavior of your new furry family member; this advice should be followed for all new kittens for at least a week.

## From Our Home To Yours – Kitten Transition

### Understanding and Time

No matter the type of transportation you choose for your kitten, whether it be by plane or car, and no matter the length of time your kitten has traveled, we urge our customers to have **compassion** and a lot of **understanding** when it comes to finally getting your chosen kitten into your arms!

The one element that our customers must understand is that their baby kitten is **losing the only home and family they have ever known**. From their trusted caretakers to their furry friends in the nursery, their moms, their comfy beds, and kitty towers

everything has changed!! Breaking away from their stable environment can prove to be a little overwhelming for some of the kittens.

The keyword is always the same...**TIME**.

For customers who are immediately concerned that their kitten seems afraid or not as playful and cheery as they expected, there is absolutely no need to panic. Do NOT expect your kitten to leap out of the carrier and start purring and playing like nothing has happened. However, this can and does happen! In most cases, however, your kitten needs some downtime to adjust! Even some of us humans dread big change!

### How long does your kitten need to adjust?

The exact amount of time a kitten needs to adjust to their new forever family and home may differ from kitten to kitten. No two dispositions are alike! Everything from the carpet fibers to his or her water bowl has changed. Feeding schedules and daily routines have changed. The sound of familiar voices is no longer present. If the environmental change wasn't enough, perhaps you have other pets in the home that your kitten needs to become aquatinted with and adjust to. That is a lot for a baby kitten and can prove overwhelming!

### Please Note

If these changes weren't enough, nine out of ten of the kittens receive a rabies vaccination prior to leaving our care. As with any vaccination, it can cause diarrhea, upset stomach, or lethargic behavior in moderation. He/she may also experience watery eyes or an upper respiratory infection shortly after arriving due to the transition.

So, how can you help your new furry family member feel safe and secure once they arrive at their new home? Below is a list of suggestions for you!

## Tips

- Loose catnip or catnip infused toys are also a great tool. Catnip is a proven stress reliever.
- Please do not change your kitten's diet! With each kitten purchase, we let you know what brand of food your kitten is eating while they are in our care. Please help reduce their stress and anxiety by keeping the same diet once they come home.
- Please do not change the type of litter. Keeping the same kind of cat litter will ensure that you do not have negative litter box behaviors.
- Do not wash their comfort blanket for the first week unless absolutely necessary. The blanket that each kitten travels with is infused with familiar scents of our nursery and will provide your kitten some comfort.
- Segregate your kitten to a smaller portion of your home until he/she has adjusted. Larger areas may overwhelm your kitten.

- If your kitten is hiding under the bed or behind the couch (or anywhere else for that matter) please do not chase or remove them. They are looking for a quiet space to retreat to. He/she will come out when they feel comfortable doing so.
- Talk to your kitten. Even if you cannot physically see your fur-baby, continue talking to him/her so they get used to your voice.
- Provide toys. Toys may entice your kitten to start playing. By giving them toys they will relax and forget about being nervous.
- Keep all other animals away from your new family member for the first week. Allow your kitten to explore the other pets in the home in their own time. Do not force them to interact with your other pets.
- Give your kitten **TIME!!!!** We cannot stress how important this is!
- **A special note about cat trees: Start small. No tall cat trees until your baby is a bit older. Always make sure there is a padded area around the cat tree. A fall from a big cat tree to a tile or hardwood floor can cause an injury. When you do graduate to a taller tree, be sure to anchor it to the wall. A cat tree toppling over on your baby can result in a devastating injury.**

