



Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County

9700 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, CA 95470

Phone (707) 485-0123 / Email: info@hsimc.org / suzanne@hsimc.org

Website: www.mendohumanesociety.com

Your Cat's Acclimation to Its New Home

Imagine you are a small animal. You have been put into a box and moved from a stressful environment to a place that you have never been before, with people and possibly other animals that you have never met before. And maybe even other animals that you didn't even know existed. Sounds scary right? Here are some tips to help your new cat adjust to your home successfully.

The First Week

For the first 3-7 days, your new cat or kitten should be confined to a safe, temperature controlled room, whether it is a bedroom, bathroom or laundry room with food/water, bedding and litter box provided. This helps them make their new world smaller and less scary while they get used to the new sounds and smells of their environment. If you have other animals, encourage them to interact with your new cat through the door to slowly introduce them by smell and sound. During this acclimation period, you do not need to isolate the cat. You may spend as much time with your new cat as you like, provided the cat is not overly stressed. When introducing children, encourage them to interact with the cat calmly and quietly.

The First Month

Once you feel like your cat is comfortable in its space you may open the space and encourage them to explore further into the house. Always allow the cat to find its way around the house as this will enable them to map the home. If you move their litter box you may do so in two different ways; move the litter box to the desired location, place the cat in the litter box and allow the cat to leave the box on its own. If your cat is more stressed or unsure of the further surroundings, move the litter box slowly a few feet a day until it is where you want it to be. Litter boxes should be placed in low traffic areas where children and dogs may not access them. If a cat does not feel secure using its litter box, it will not use it.

Introducing Other Animals

If you have other animals, introduce them slowly to reduce stress. Allow the cats to meet each other at their own pace. Hissing and growling is normal as long as there is no outright fighting or chasing. If one of the cats is urinating outside of the litter box they may require an additional litter box. Another way to ease territory stress is to make sure the cats have their own sets of food and water bowls.



Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County

9700 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, CA 95470

Phone (707) 485-0123 / Email: info@hsimc.org / suzanne@hsimc.org

Website: www.mendohumanesociety.com

If you have a dog in your home, start the introduction with the cat at the cat's pace. If you have the ability to do so, put your dog in a crate or on one side of a baby gate for the first few introductions. This enables the cat to interact with the dog while feeling safe.

Looking to the Future

Keep in mind that a cat's acclimation to its new home can take up to 3 months. A cat hiding under beds, blankets or up high is normal and will very likely subside as the cat becomes more comfortable.

If you plan on allowing your cat to go outside, wait to introduce them to the outdoors until the cat has lived in your home for at least 2-4 weeks. Always bring your cat indoors at night for their safety.

If you have any questions about your cat's acclimation to your home, please contact us at (707) 485-0123 ext. 305 or Suzanne@hsimc.org.