

# Bringing your rescue kitty home

Thank you for adopting!!

To introduce a rescue cat, first set up a separate "safe room" with its essential resources (food, water, litter box, bed). Allow the cat to acclimate to this space for several days before gradual, supervised introductions to other parts of the home or resident pets. Be patient, let the cat approach you on its own terms, and use slow blinks to build trust. For multiple cats, use a gradual scent-exchange method before face-to-face meetings to build familiarity.

## 1. Prepare a Safe Room

Location: Designate a quiet, smaller room like a spare bedroom or bathroom.

Resources: Place a litter box, food and water bowls, a bed, and a few toys inside.

Familiar Scents: Leave a familiar-smelling item (like your clothes) in the room to help your cat feel more secure.

## 2. Initial Acclimation

Arrival: When you get home, bring the cat to the safe room, and allow it to come out of its carrier at its own pace.

Patience: Stay in the room with the cat, sitting quietly and allowing it to explore.

Gentle Interaction: If the cat approaches, use a quiet, high-pitched voice and offer gentle pets under the chin. Do not force interaction, as this can damage trust.

## 3. Gradual Expansion of Space

Explore at Their Pace:

Once the cat seems comfortable in its safe room, you can leave the door open so it can explore other parts of the house gradually.

Observe Behavior:

Watch for signs of stress like hiding or flattened ears, and be prepared to go back to the safe room.

#### **4. Introducing to Other Cats**

Scent Exchange:

For several days, swap bedding or rub a towel on the new cat and your resident cat, then let the other cat smell it.

Supervised Meetings:

After scent familiarity, allow brief, supervised interactions in a shared space, providing treats to create positive associations.

Separate if Aggressive:

If you see signs of aggression (hissing, growling), separate the cats and try again another time.

#### **5. Ongoing Care**

Veterinary Visit:

Have a veterinarian examine the cat to ensure it's in good health and to discuss necessary vaccinations and parasite control.

Provide Essentials:

Ensure a good supply of toys, scratch posts, and vertical spaces (like cat trees) to reduce stress and prevent destructive behaviors.