



## INTRODUCING YOUR NEW CAT TO YOUR HOME

The first 24-48 hours your new cat spends in your home are crucial to your cat's health and disposition. A comfortable cat is a happy cat; a scared cat is, well, a scared cat. And the likelihood of anyone wanting a pet that hides under a bed is low. Here are some guidelines to help introduce your cat to his / her new home in a way that eases the transition from street, shelter or foster home without causing too much upheaval:

### Basics

- Isolation. Place your cat, for the first few days, in a small, enclosed room (usually the bathroom) that has minimal hiding places. Remember to also have food, water, and a litter box in the same room. Since cats love small places, it will be easier for them to adjust in a smaller room, and the bathroom allows them to become acquainted with your scent. Placing used towels on the floor for a bed may make them more comfortable.
- Access. Allow your cat increasing access to your home as she adjusts to her new environment. You'll find that some cats instantly adjust, while others cling to hiding places. With time, your cat should be comfortable wandering around your home at will.
- Behavior. Hiding, skittishness and meowing are all normal behaviors during the adjustment period.

### Warning Signs

- Health Watch. Vomiting, diarrhea and eye / nose discharge can occur during a cat's transition to a new home (often caused by stress and a diet change to the new food you are feeding her), and should clear up within a few days. If this does not, or if your cat exhibits any of the symptoms below, you should contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.
  - o Excessive mucus discharge and sneezing
  - o Excessive diarrhea
  - o Excessive vomiting
  - o Fever
  - o Blood in the stool
  - o Loss of appetite / lethargy
  - o Difficulty breathing