

# HELP YOUR NEW CAT FEEL AT HOME

*If you adopt a feline friend (or two) from a shelter, here are some tips to help your new companion to settle in:*

🐾 **GIVE IT TIME.** Yes, you're offering a wonderful home, but your new addition has no way of knowing that. Only through your actions will your cat learn that it is safe and loved. Be patient---don't force things. Be the source of petting, praise and treats. With cats, think in terms of weeks to settle in, not days. Taking things slowly is the fastest way to get your new friend relaxed and sleeping in the sun---secure and contented.

🐾 **PROVIDE SPACE.** Set up a safe area that's just for your cat where it can easily get to food, water and the litter box, then let it be. Your new cat may hide for a few days (some longer). Once it decides to come out, if it runs away from you, a guest or children---let it go. Do not chase after or try to pick up a frightened cat.

🐾 **SUPERVISE OR SEPARATE.** With all new cats, but especially kittens, be sure you supervise when they are out and about in your home (and never allow them to roam outside). You may need to confine other pets at first so your new one can explore. When you cannot supervise, put the kitty back in its *"safe area."*

🐾 **PROTECT.** Don't let people or other animals overwhelm or frighten your cat. Don't allow your cat (or any pet) to be cornered. Make sure it has an avenue of escape at all times. Tell children to sit on the floor if they want to play with the kitty rather than picking it up. If you have a dog, keep it on a lead and under control when around your new feline. If you cannot control your dog, seek the help of an experienced training professional.

