

2 WEEK ACCLIMATION PERIOD



- **Start in a Smaller Space:** Begin by confining the new cat to a smaller, quiet room with food, water, scratching posts, toys and a litter box. This helps prevent them from feeling overwhelmed by the new environment and allows them to adjust gradually. A spare bedroom or bathroom works well.
- **Blocking Off Hiding Areas:** Block off any potential hiding spots where the cat may feel too comfortable or inaccessible. However, ensure there's at least one safe hiding place where the cat can retreat to if they feel scared or stressed.
- **Minimize Exposure to Other Animals:** Keep all animals in the household separated during the acclimation period to minimize the risk of spreading any potential Upper Respiratory Infections (URIs) that may have been present in the shelter or among other pets.
- **Gradual Introductions:** Slowly introduce the new cat to other pets and people in the home. This should be done gradually after two-week period to avoid overwhelming the cat and to allow them to become familiar with their new companions at their own pace.
- **Positive Reinforcement:** Use positive reinforcement techniques to build trust and a positive relationship with the new cat. Offer treats, toys, and gentle praise when the cat displays desirable behaviors such as coming out of hiding, exploring their surroundings, or interacting positively with other pets and people.
- **Patience and Understanding:** Understand that every cat is unique and may require different amounts of time to adjust to their new home. Be patient and allow the cat to set the pace for their acclimation process. Avoid forcing interactions or overwhelming the cat with too much stimulation.

By following these guidelines, you can help ensure a smooth transition for your new cat and create a positive environment where they can feel safe, secure, and loved in their new home.