

Caring for your new best friend.

Adopting a cat is one of the most rewarding things you can do. This is an exciting time for everyone! To help you get off to a healthy start, you'll need to make sure your friends, family, and home are ready to welcome your new addition.

Setting up a safe, friendly environment and staying in frequent contact with your veterinarian will give you and your new cat the best chance at a long and wonderful friendship.

Talk to your veterinarian to learn more about your cat's needs and ways to care for him or her long into the future.

Preparing a healthy homecoming for your cat!

Use this guide to learn how to care for your newly adopted family member.



This booklet offers helpful tips on:

- Gathering important items
- Cat-proofing your house
- Developing healthy habits

Congratulations on adopting your new cat!

To help make your cat's transition into his or her new home an easy one, keep in mind that cats may need a little more reassurance than dogs, so check out this list of items that you may need.

A cat-proofed room—When you first bring your cat home, prepare a small room such as a bathroom for your new cat's first few nights. Remove any plants and cleaning supplies that could be poisonous to your cat. Provide a soft bed in an elevated location, litter box, a post or box for scratching, water, and food for your cat to access. Having a quiet space, areas to hide, and calming pheromone products will help your new cat get used to his or her surroundings.

Food—Many veterinarians recommend a variety of foods, including both dry and canned options. A proper diet is important if your cat is on patrol for mice and laser pointers or even just curling up for an all day cat nap. Talk to your veterinarian about what cat food he or she recommends and how much your cat should get each day.

Toys—Having plenty of toys to keep your cat busy while you're gone will keep him or her both mentally and physically fit. A scratching post is also a must and will help cats remove an outer layer of their nails, mark their territory, and have a little fun. That way, your beautiful Persian doesn't ruin your Persian rug!

Collar/grooming items—Most pets that are adopted from animal care facilities have microchips implanted to help identify them. A collar with ID tags is just as important and can help others quickly determine who your cat belongs to. A brush for grooming, toothbrush, and nail clippers are all necessary to keep your cat looking and feeling great.

Scents—Smell is one of a cat's most powerful senses. That's why your new cat has most likely already rubbed his or her scent against you to mark you as a safe and friendly person. Pheromone plug-ins, sprays, or wipes produce scents that help calm your cat. Placing these in areas that your cat spends a significant amount of time can help it feel secure and comfortable while they get used to your home.

Adjusting to a new environment can be difficult for some cats. That is especially true when a cat is introduced to other pets in the home. If not properly addressed, these issues can lead some pet owners to return their cats to the shelter. If you begin training immediately, socialize your cat often, and get it accustomed to its carrier by leaving it out, you will help him or her relax and learn good manners around guests and other animals.



Creating a healthy, happy life for your cat.

Developing a routine will help your cat catch on to the rules of the house and help ensure he or she lives a healthy lifestyle. Daily exercise and playtime will help keep your cat's weight under control and give them something to look forward to. Developing a good relationship with your veterinarian is one of the most important things you can do for your cat. Regular visits to the clinic will give your veterinarian a chance to identify problems early and give you valuable advice to help your pet and your pocketbook!

From kittens to seniors, all cats need regular veterinary examinations and care. Here's a list of common kitty healthcare needs:

KITTEN

- Nutritional assessment and feeding recommendations
- Initial vaccinations
- Spaying/neutering
- Advice on feeding
- Begin parasite preventatives (even if indoors only)
- Environment and litter box needs
- Toys and training
- Dental care



ADULT

- Nutritional assessment and feeding recommendations
- Annual vaccinations
- Annual internal parasite testing
- Parasite preventatives
- Basic health screenings
- Dental checkups



SENIOR

- Nutritional assessment and feeding recommendations
- Parasite preventatives
- Laboratory tests (blood work, urinalysis, etc)
- Skin and coat evaluations
- Range of motion evaluation for arthritis
- Monitor weight changes
- Dental checkups

