

THE FIRST DAYS

- BRINGING YOUR CAT HOME -



PLANNING AHEAD ♦.....♦

- **Cat-proof your home** from electrical wires, toxic plants, and cleaning chemicals
- **Privacy:** set up a quiet room or corner for your cat to have to themselves for the first few days or weeks, gated from other pets. Include the litter box, food and water, and a comfy hiding structure such as a box, crate, or climbing post.
- **Quiet time:** try to allow your cat to settle in for the first week without visitors and guests
- **Supplies:** have a comfortable carrier, dry & wet food, bowls, beds, scratching posts or boards, litter box with litter and a scoop, and an enzymatic cleaner in case of accidents. Buddy Dog provides a sample bag of dry food and a carrier for the ride home if needed.

THE FIRST DAY ♦.....♦

- **Leave them be:** upon arriving home, set the carrier in your designated quiet cat room, and let the cat leave the carrier and explore the room at their own pace. Don't allow other animals in just yet. Some cats will need hours, some days, and some weeks to adjust to their new environment.
- **Decompression:** the first day is about letting your cat adjust to their new home, and to decompress from the stress of such a big change. Don't force interactions, it's ok if they need to spend some time in hiding until they realize that they are safe and loved

MOVING FORWARD ♦.....♦

- **PATIENCE PATIENCE PATIENCE:** take a deep breath, cats can take a while to adjust to change.
- **Expanding their territory:** as they settle in, allow your kitty to explore the house a gradually. Only allow full-house privileges once your cat is confident and calm.
- **Watch their appetite:** be familiar with your cat's eating habits; a change in appetite can be a sign that something is not right, and a call to your vet may be in order.
- **Introductions:** it's important to take introductions to other pets, especially other cats, very slowly and gradually. Interactions should be brief at first, and at a pace and distance that both animals are comfortable with. See the next page for resources on introductions with your cat!
- **Stay in touch!** We at Buddy Dog LOVE to hear about our adopted alumni, and we are always here to help if you ever have a question or concern – even months or years down the road. Always feel welcome to stop by our shelter, or send a note to info@BuddyDogHS.org

THANK YOU FOR ADOPTING!

Resources

Buddy Dog Humane Society is always here to help if you ever have a concern or question about your dog. Please feel welcome to contact a staff member at info@buddydoghs.org, or call the shelter at 978-443-6990. Below is a list of education material for common behavioral issues. Always consult a professional behaviorist or trainer for serious issues when the safety is at risk. You can find this list on our website:

www.buddydoghs.org/resources

General Training Tips:

- 🐾 <https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/cat-care/common-cat-behavior-issues>
- 🐾 http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/cats/cat_problem_solver/

Fearful Cats

- 🐾 <https://www.catbehaviorassociates.com/helping-a-fearful-cat/>
- 🐾 <https://www.paws.org/library/cats/behavior/fearful-cat/>

Introductions with New Cats

- 🐾 <https://www.jacksongalaxy.com/blog/the-dos-and-donts-of-introducing-cats/>
- 🐾 <https://bestfriends.org/resources/introducing-new-cat>

Destructive Scratching

- 🐾 <https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/cat-care/common-cat-behavior-issues/destructive-scratching>
- 🐾 <https://www.jacksongalaxy.com/blog/how-to-stop-your-cats-from-scratching-furniture/>
- 🐾 <https://www.softpaws.com/> - a humane alternative to declawing

Litterbox Issues

- 🐾 <https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/cat-care/common-cat-behavior-issues/litter-box-problems>
- 🐾 http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/cats/tips/solving_litter_box_problems.html