



# Adopting Cats and Kittens



## Safety & Leisure

- Ensure all windows and doors are locked, particularly if you don't have a spare room. The cat/kitten will find a way out of the house. There should be security screens on all windows and doors, especially balcony doors. Never leave a door or window slightly ajar, as they will be able to nudge it open and escape.
- Remove any flowers from the house. There are a lot of flowers that are toxic/deadly to cats, including lilies, baby's breath, devil's ivy, fruit salad plant, and rubber fig.
- Check any household detergents or cleaning product containers are sealed tightly and are not accessible to the cat/kitten.
- Remove any cords or anything with strings, including toys, when you are not monitoring your cat/kitten as they can get wrapped around their neck.
- For particularly anxious cats or for kittens in general, we recommend purchasing a Feliway plugin diffuser, which releases pheromones similar to that of a mother cat, and puts kittens and adult cats at ease.
- A cat scratching post or cat towers are particularly useful as indoor cats use these to shed nail sheaths that have grown relatively old from their claws; this assists in stimulating the growth of new layers. They also use scratching towers for exercise, stretching, toning muscles, and play. You can spray a little cat nip on the post to encourage the cat to use it.
- Once the cat/kitten has settled in, if you are going to be out of the house all day, we recommend leaving the radio or TV on for the first few weeks of adjustment and plenty of toys out.
- Our cats are all strictly indoors. If you wish to spend time with your cat outdoors, we recommend either purchasing a portable cat enclosure, harness or enclosing your balcony or a section of your yard. You may want to contact Sydney Cat Enclosures for a free quote - <https://www.sydneycatenclosures.com.au>

## Food

- Kittens in particular will need good kitten food with a high content of protein in them like meat or fish, so you may need to get quality food from Pet Circle, Budget Pets, Petbarn or any other pet store. Recommended brands for all ages include Royal Canin, Hills Science Food, ZiwiPeak, Feline Natural, Black Hawk, and Applaws. Please note: Anyone who adopts a cat or kitten from our rescue is eligible to receive 2x 25% discount vouchers for Royal Canin products. (Please enquire for more information).
  - Furever After Rescue Inc. may at times provide some of the cat/kitten's current food. Please ensure you mix any new food with the old food for a few days, otherwise the cat/kitten will get gastrointestinal symptoms, such as vomiting or diarrhea.
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## Food

- Keep a few fresh water bowls/fountains in the room with them or throughout the house once they get more comfortable.
- Kittens under 3 months eat every 4-6 hours and can be transitioned to two wet food meals per day once they reach approx. 6 months old. Feeding times for wet food are usually morning, afternoon, and just before bed time. Give them about 2-4 tablespoons of wet food each. Keep dry food out for them all day and top this up at night. Adult cats can have wet food once a day with dry food kept out (free feeding).

## Litter

- Initially, put the litter box near them in the room that they will first be homed in. Once they adjust, the litterbox can be moved somewhere else. There should be 1 litter box per cat, and one extra.
- The type of litter you use depends on what the kitten/cat was using before they come to you. By the time kittens are ready for adoption, we usually have them using paper litter and if the kitten is older than 6 months clumping litter is fine too. We recommend Breeders Choice for paper litter and Catsan clumping litter.
- Scoop out the litter boxes at least two or three times per day if they are kittens, as they use the litter box more frequently. If they are cats, once a day is sufficient.

## Days 1 and 2

- Try and set up a cave for them in a spare room or one of the bedrooms before they get there (e.g. cover an armchair with a blanket so they could hide underneath). When they are in the cave, do not go near them as that is their safe space. They will eventually come to you themselves, particularly when they associate you with food. If you don't have an armchair or chair you can cover, use their pet carrier and cover it with a blanket, leaving a small gap for them to get in and out. Start them off in the spare room or bedroom (put sleeping items, food, litter box and toys in there). Give them some space the first day and then sit in there quietly and work on your laptop etc. from Day 2. Eventually they will get curious and come to you. Some cats or kittens may take weeks to trust you, adult cats, more than kittens. If they are kittens, use a laser beam they can follow or a toy wand they can play with to get them to interact and learn that their human is "fun and safe". If they are an adult cat, they may not be as playful.
  - Treats work wonders for developing a connection with food motivated cats. Put "Dine Creamy Treats" on a small bowl. Once they finish, you can put a little on your finger so the kitten/cat can lick it off.
  - Put one of your jumpers, blanket etc. in the room so they can get used to your scent.
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## Days 1 and 2

- After a day or two, you can keep the door to the spare room open (if that's where they are) and they may come out and investigate.
- Let kittens get used to you for one week before introducing them to other people, particularly young children or other pets. Adult cats may take a bit longer.
- If you have other pets, let them sniff each other through the bottom of the door, carrier etc. Do not let them mix until they have sniffed each other on and off through a screen door etc. for a minimum of 1-2 weeks, if there is ever any hissing or spitting, separate them.
- Revolution or Advocate flea and worming treatment should be used once per month. (please read the instructions carefully and be sure it is applied to the correct area on the back of the neck so the cat will not be able to lick it off).

\*Once the Change of Ownership C3A form has been submitted, your local council will send you a letter in a few weeks to confirm new ownership. You will then need to register and link your cat/kitten's Microchip into your name. This may incur a one-off fee of \$80 if the cat/kitten was desexed after 4 months of age. This is required under the NSW legislation requirements and can be completed at your local council, or go to - <https://www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au>

**Please note:**

Some cats and kittens have been rescued from the pound or council and will already have their NSW Pet Registration updated.

### Essential Items

- Litter box/scoop
- Food bowls (cleaned daily)
- Water bowls (changed daily)
- Wet food (age appropriate)
- Dry food (age appropriate)
- Pet blanket and towel
- Cat scratching post
- Cat tower
- Cat bed
- Cat carrier
- Toys
- Topical flea and worm treatment

### Additional Items

- Treats (age appropriate)
- Probiotics for cats if stools are soft
- Cat brush (for long-haired cats)
- Claw clippers (otherwise take to vet)
- Feliway plug-in diffuser

Also please don't forget to have your cat/kitten vaccinated to avoid them getting sick.

Usually kittens are to be vaccinated each month for the first 3 months, then annually once they are over 12 months of age.

