



**YOU ADOPTED ME!  
NOW WHAT CAN  
YOU EXPECT...**



### **Thank you for adopting!**

#### **You have saved a cat's life today!**

With a little information, it's easy to help your new cat to settle in at your home! Don't worry! You can give your new cat a wonderful new life!

#### **What you might observe while your new cat adjusts:**

- Shyness, hiding, seems timid
- Doesn't eat
- Growling, fighting with other cats
- Backsliding on litter-training
- Avoidance/nervousness with you

Be patient with both your new cat and yourself! Things may proceed slowly; you may be frustrated when your new cat doesn't seem to want to be with you or to cuddle. But if you're committed, you'll get there. Remember also, that the basic period of adjustment can be anywhere from six to twelve weeks. The first 24 hours in your home are special & critical. Before you bring a new cat into your life, it helps to understand a little bit about how cats relate to their world. For a cat, territory is of paramount importance. He'll want to spend his first days & weeks, exploring. Are there raised surfaces for the cat? Cats need to be able to jump up and survey their territory. Do you have valuable mementos that are easily broken? Put them away until your cat is happily moved in. Check out all the nooks & crannies. Are there places that could be dangerous for the cat to explore or hide in? If so, block them off. **Be sure to put a scratching post or pad in every room.**

**The transformation you give this cat, will knock your socks off!**

By now, you have set up your home to welcome your new cat! You have decided on a safe 'room' for your cat to eat, sleep and hang out while he adjusts to the new sights, sounds and smells of your home. A 'safe room' will help limit him running off to a well-hidden corner of your home while he settles in and earns your trust. Place a T-Shirt with your scent, in the room so when your cat arrives, he can safely get used to your 'smell', without being crowded or over-handled. And of course, put in a scratching post!

We will have told you *what* your cat is eating, and *when*. You can follow that routine for the first few days to avoid any upset tummies or bowels.

#### **As soon as you arrive home, take your new cat to his 'safe room' while he is still in his carrier crate.**

The crate is a safe place: it's got his smell and the familiar blanket from the shelter, which will give him some comfort. Open the carrier door but do not pull the cat out. Allow him to come out on his own and begin to explore his new home. Now, leave the room. Yes, leave...remember you are giving him time to acclimate. Let him explore and get to know his new space.

**Introduce yourself & family to you new cat, slowly.** Visit his 'safe room' occasionally in the first few days. Do not reach for the cat! Let the cat come to you. If he doesn't approach, come back in an hour. Give him time & space to accept you.

**Do not be surprised if he doesn't eat.** It is common for re-homed cats to show no interest in eating, often for several days. Pick up the leftover food and leave. Come back in a couple of hours with a fresh meal of the same food. He will eat when he is comfortable.

**Introduce cats already living in the home by 'scent'.** Use a screen door on the 'safe room'. It's an excellent way for cats to meet and smell, face to face, without the risk of a fight. Keep in mind, territory is paramount to a cat – they need to figure out how to co-exist in the same space. It also works to put the existing cat in a carrier, and let your new cat 'meet' him through the kennel doors. Expect a few hisses & 'posturing' – they are letting each other know the rules of living together! It will settle down if you keep doing it for the next few days or weeks.

**Once the cat is openly soliciting affection,** eating and not hiding, you can open the door and give him more room. Close doors to some rooms, so you can do this slowly until you have introduced the cat to all the rooms in his new home. Remember to let the cat set the pace. Be patient. It may take weeks for the cat to comprehend that this new space is his new territory and that it is a safe place to be!

To have a long and happy life together with your cat, let him adjust to the schedule that is your life, ensuring your cat always has the food, clean, scooped litter, scratching posts and lots of playtime!

#### **You'll be bonded in no time!**

<https://www.petfinder.com>,

Together, we might be able to help your cat to settle in with you! Feel free to call our team for advice! Wed-Sun, 12pm-4pm 506-684-4396

Check our website for help on living with 'Cats & Claws'! [www.restigouchespc.com](http://www.restigouchespc.com)

