



Dos and Don'ts during the First Week after Adoption

Thank you for keeping me indoors and not declawing me!

Do in the first week after adoption:

- Start the cat/kitten in a small room. A guest bathroom or den without a lot of furniture is best. Make sure there is not a bed in the room. Keep the cat/kitten in this room until they are completely comfortable with you and your family. Install a night light so the room will not be completely dark at bedtime.
- Provide the cat/kitten with the same food/litter the shelter uses and fresh water. SHFC uses a Pine pellet litter but you can transition to any unscented scoopable clay litter and we feed Science Diet food. Any changes in food or litter need to be done gradually.
- Introduce change gradually. Keep the visits quiet and calm. Children must be supervised. Introductions to other family pets must also be supervised and brief.
- Spend time with the cat/kitten in the small room. Playtime and quiet time with the family members is helpful to build trust and familiarity.
- Ask questions. Please contact *SAFE HAVEN FOR CATS* or your veterinarian if you have questions or problems.

Don't in the first week after adoption:

- Don't let the cat/kitten loose in the house at large. The animal will find a hiding spot typically under a bed or behind furniture. It will be stressful and difficult for you to work with the cat/kitten.
- Don't make sudden changes in the environment, food, litter, or water of the cat/kitten. Cats find change stressful and a new home is a major stress. Introduce changes gradually after the settling in period is over.
- Don't make loud noises or have major disruptions. Cats in general are often startled by loud noises and household disruptions. Avoiding these at the beginning will help build confidence and trust between you and the cat.
- Don't become discouraged! Whatever issue you may have has happened before! Contact us and let us help you with adjusting to your new lifelong family member!