

Welcoming Your New Kitty Home

To this small being, your home is a strange territory, filled with unfamiliar smells, sounds, and objects

The bathroom is an ideal space for your kitty's first couple of days in its new home. From the cat's point of view, it's small and safe - not too many things to check out for potential danger. From your point of view, it has a limited number of places to look if a shy kitty decides to disappear.



A cat has a few basic needs

Make sure the cat's safe space has food, water, an ample litter box, a scratching post/box, a few toys to play with, and a nice warm place to sleep - oh, and yes, kitties love having a place to hide, so think about that when choosing a bed. Kitty condos are great, but a cardboard box or a paper bag makes a good kitty hideaway. Make sure you cut the handles off the bag!

You picked your kitty, but did the kitty pick you?

The most important task the first week is letting the kitty get to know YOU, not YOU getting to know the kitty. Go slow. Let the cat approach you - offer a hand to sniff before petting, pet before snuggling. And talk: cats understand more than you think.



Sure, the cat is part of your family now, but not all at once, please

Moving house is stressful, so let your new cat get comfortable before introducing the rest of the family. Let the new cat meet and greet other members of the family one at a time, in the cat's space, not yours. If there's another pet in the household, you'll need to use extra care in bringing them together. See the handout in your adoption packet on introducing a new kitty to a resident cat, If you have a resident dog, see the American Humane Society's guidelines about introducing your new cat to the dog. <http://www.americanhumane.org/animals/adoption-pet-care/dog-behavior/introducing-dogs-to-cats.html>

Maine Coon Adoptions is here for you

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions, comments, or even if you just want to share stories or cute photos! We have lots of experience with all sorts of cat issues, and we are happy to provide help and advice now, a year from now, or ten years from now. Contact us at: elaineln@pacbell.net or 510-710-9250.



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