**So, you just adopted a Cat/Kitten........what do you do when you get home?**

* Because the cat/kitten is not familiar with your home and the people in the home we recommend you keep the new pet in a smaller closed room (e.g. a spare bedroom or bathroom) for a few days with its litter, food and water. Why? A new environment can be overwhelming for a new cat/kitten in the home, by keeping it in a separate room the pet can get use to the sounds, smells, people, and possibly other pets in the home without being confronted by them. Most behavioural issues with cats are a result of them not feeling safe & secure in the home. Also, if a cat/kitten is coming into a strange environment it may not want to explore to find where the litter box is, confining the cat means it will be less likely to have litter box accidents.
* The cat you adopted may have come with a hide box/blanket. This will give the cat/kitten something that is familiar to them, that will comfort them as they get use to a new home.
* Cats like to find a spot that is up high. This makes them feel more secure. We recommend providing the cat with area(s) to perch upon such as a cat tree.
* Cats need to have the opportunity to dig/scratch. We recommend providing the cat with a scratch pad/post.
* If you do have other animals in the home, once you have let the cat/kitten settle in you can begin introductions to any other pets in the home. Cats tend to enjoy the scent of vanilla so we recommend putting a dab at the back of the head and the base of the tail of both animals. If you are introducing 2 cats, please see the article on introducing cats. If introducing the cat/kitten to a dog we recommend placing the cat in a carrier and allow the dog to approach the crate while on leash so you can see how they do. While most will not be love at first site, the crate will protect the cat/dog from any injuries. As long as there are no signs of out and out aggression, the cat can be let out of the crate. The cat may choose to run and find a spot that they feel secure in. As long as the dog is not showing signs of wanting to pursue the cat you can let the dog off leash. The cat should start to explore the house. If the cat continues to hide after 24 hours you may want to restrict it to a room again for a few more days. Once the cat is comfortable moving around the house you can place the litter box where you prefer it to be in the home.
* Litter/Litter boxes. There are many types of these items on the market. Cats can be particular about their litter box habits. Studies show that unscented clumping litter is the type most cats prefer as it is very similar to sand. If you find you are having issues with the cat using the litter/litter box you may want to try multiple boxes or a different style of litter box (not all cats are comfortable climbing into a closed litter box). You may also want to try a different type of litter (e.g. clumping vs. non-clumping or scented vs. unscented). Another consideration is where you have place the litter box, some cats do not like it near a busy/noisy area such as next to a furnace. Cats prefer a larger uncovered litter box in an open area. The general rule of thumb is to have 1 litter box for each cat in the home **PLUS** one more
* We recommend not inviting over friends/family to meet the newest member of the home until the cat/kitten is comfortable in the home.
* Provide the cat with a variety of different looking, sounding toys that they can interact with.
* Shelter animals are fed specific diets, if you are feeding the same type of food at home there shouldn't be any digestive issues. If you are planning to feed a different brand of food we recommend weaning the pet onto the new diet slowly. Sudden changes can result in diarrhea/vomiting. Below is a guide on how to transition your new pet onto a new diet.



**N.B.** If after you get home you have any questions or concerns please contact the shelter. We will do our best to resolve the issue(s). Sometimes however it may turn out that the pet you adopted is just not the right fit for your home. If this is the case, we will make arrangements for you to return the cat/kitten. This does not mean you will be "disqualified" from adopting, we just want to make sure that it is the right fit for your family and the pet.