



of York County
A New Leash on Life

BROUGHER COMPANION ANIMAL SHELTER
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Make your Cat Adoption a Success

Excerpts from the recommendations of the Humane Society of the United States

Selection We have on average over 300 cats that are available for adoption and adopt about 120 cats each month. It is more important that you take the **right** cat home, than you take **any** cat home. If the perfect cat is not here for you today, please come back at a later date because we will have many new faces for you to see. It is important that the cat's energy level, age, temperament and personality are matched to your needs, time and ability. Let us help you find the right cat; we want you and your new friend to have many happy years together!

Arriving Home Cats need to become familiar with their surroundings before they can feel comfortable and an entire new home or apartment can be a bit overwhelming. To make the transition to your household as stress-free as possible, introduce your new cat to its' new surroundings and family a little at a time. Select a quiet, closed-in room such as a utility room or a small room away from the main traffic, and provide food, water, toys, scratching post and litter pan. Place your new cat in this room and let the cat come out of the carrier on his own; do not coax or force him. Cats are curious and most will come out soon to explore their new surroundings. If the cat seems very timid, leave the room for a while and check back later. When the cat is ready to come out, let him come to you. Talk in a soft, reassuring tone, pet him if he seems interested but do not try to pick him up. Leave the open carrier in the room so that he has a safe retreat if he wants one. Give him time to learn that he can trust you.

Introduction to Family Members Introduce family members slowly. Have them come into the room (described above) one at a time to pet and play with the cat. Have younger children sit down, then show them how to gently stroke the cat's fur and offer him a few treats. Make certain that children understand that they are never to chase the cat, hurt or corner him. They also should not bother him when he eats or sleeps, until he has become an established member of the family and you are sure of his temperament. The cat should never be bothered when he is using his litter box; cats like people, want their privacy. If there are other cats in the household, again, the introduction should be done slowly. Do not force the introduction; after the new cat has become comfortable with his surroundings and the other cat(s) have become accustomed to the smell of a new cat in the home, all cats should feel more at ease & slowly integrate themselves together as they acclimate to the environment. It is **not** unusual for the resident cat(s) to display **temporary** changes in behavior like hissing, growling, hiding or fighting. Cats like routine, not change.

Cleanliness Cats are generally very clean and prefer a clean environment and body. Most will instinctively use a litter box; for some, you may need to place the cat in the box and make little scratching motions with their front paws. The litter pan should be cleaned several times a week or daily, if necessary. Cats also value privacy, so place the litter box in a convenient but secluded spot. Keep your cat free from mats and excess fur by brushing shorthaired cats on a weekly basis, longhaired cats on a daily basis.

Clawing Behavior Yelling at a cat never works. If your new cat is clawing something he shouldn't, squirt him with a spray bottle filled with water and direct him to the scratching post you have provided for him. Positively reward him for good scratching behavior by providing treats. It is also a good idea to keep his nails clipped. Please remember that if you follow this advice, there should be no need to have the cat declawed, an unnecessary operation that can lead to biting behavior & urination outside the litter box. It is your responsibility to help your cat understand the rules and to give him a satisfying outlet for his scratching impulses.

Miscellaneous Always use a cat carrier when transporting a cat. If it desirable to switch cat food, mix ½ of the old food with ½ of the new food; switching abruptly may cause loose stools. Take your new cat to the veterinarian after adoption and keep him up-to-date on vaccinations. Lastly and most importantly, love your new cat !!!!!

Please talk to our staff about any specific questions you may have so that your cat adoption is a successful one!