

Congratulations on adopting a shelter cat. We want this to be a paw-sitive experience so that you and your new cat can live happily together for a long time, so here are some tips for starting your new relationship off on the right paw.

### First Day Home:

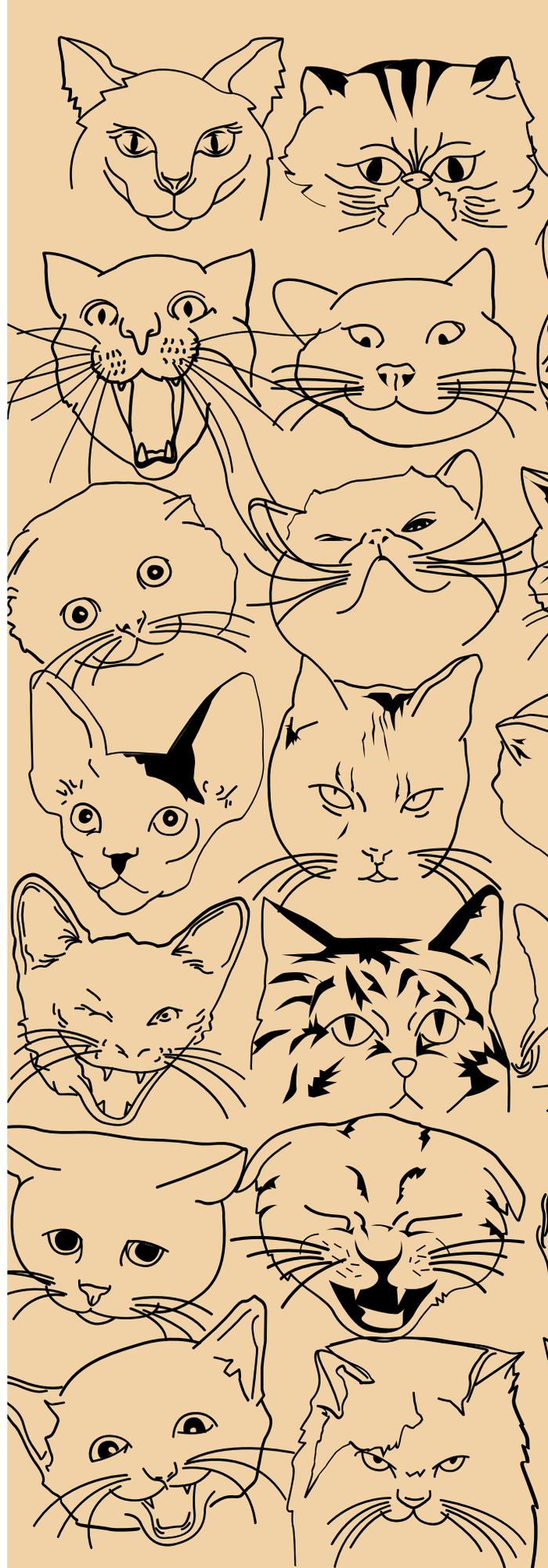
Adding a new member to your family is exciting, but can be stressful for all involved, including your new cat. Setting up a small room for the cat is the best way to help him acclimate. A big, open space can be scary and he might hide and not know where to use the litter box, or where his/her food source is. You want to create a feeling of safety for him by letting him settle in one room of your home with everything he needs: food, water, toys and a litter box. Interact with him during this time so he gets used to you being a part of his new life. He will need toys and lots of time with you, but most of all he will need your patience and love to blossom to his full potential.

### Some Supplies You'll Need:

**Food-** We feed our cats Hill's Science Diet, but you can choose another brand, but make sure to transition your cat slowly. Start by adding about 25% of the new food to his current food, while reducing the amount of his current food at the same time. After a few days, up the amount to 50%, a few more days to 65% and then you should be able to switch it over completely. Going slowly gives your cat' digestive system a chance to keep up and reduces the possibility of a mess.

**Water-** All cats need fresh water available at all times. If you decide on a water fountain, be sure to keep it clean and fresh. Contrary to popular belief, most cats are intolerant to milk.

**Litterbox & Scooper-** This is one of the most important purchases when adopting your cat as this is where they will go to the bathroom. We recommend getting two litter boxes for your first cat and an additional litter box for each additional cat in the home- so if you have two cats, you would want to have three litter boxes placed in different areas of the home. You can choose the type of litter you prefer, or your cat prefers, and we suggest a litter box big enough for your cat to fit inside and be able to turn around in it.



**MAC**

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Make sure to get a scooper and scoop daily! If the cat doesn't have a clean space to use the box, they may have an accident.

**Scratchers-** Cats need to scratch and because scratching is a natural behavior, it's important to have scratchers for your cat to avoid unwanted scratching on furniture or walls. Declawing is not something condoned by MAC as it is a permanent physical alteration to the cat and can lead to other behavior issues.

Please reach out to MAC if you need help with appropriate scratching. There are many ways to redirect and manage this natural behavior.

**Cat Tower-** Cat towers are similar to scratchers in that there are many to choose from. Some cats have very clear preferences.

Cat towers also provide your cat with more spaces and territory to run around on, which is important, especially in a multi-cat home.

**Toys-** All cats love toys. There is a huge variety of toys available, ranging from homemade entertainment like crumpled up paper and empty boxes to deluxe toys from the pet store. A good way to keep things fresh is to rotate the toys available to your cat.

### During the Weeks to Come:

Visit your cat regularly as he adjusts to his room. Everything he encounters will be new and possibly stressful. Allow him to adjust at his own pace. It could take two days or two months- every cat is different; A good indication that your cat has adjusted to his new home is when he is eating, drinking, and using the litterbox normally. Your cat should not show signs of fear, such as hiding when you walk into his sanctuary room. When your cat is ready to see the rest of the house, open the door and allow him to explore on his own. Chances are, if he gets spooked in his new surroundings, he will return to his safe space.

**\*\*If you have other pets at home, take your time introducing your new cat to them. Rushing through an introduction can cause long lasting conflicts between your new cat and current pets. It is best to go too slow than too quickly.**

**\*\*Training should begin early, no matter how old your new cat is. Socializing kittens is critical to their development and will help you have a well rounded adult cat. Talking to, touching, and playing with your cat all leads to a more socialized pet.**

