



Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

Great Beginnings... for you and your new cat

- After bringing your new kitty home, don't just let her loose in the house right away. Set up safe haven in a quiet room, containing a litterbox (which gets changed daily), a soft bed, food and water. This is especially important for shy cats.
- Periodically offer company and affection, but respect a cat's need to be alone if she hides from you. Some cats take days or weeks to adjust completely to a new environment.
- To introduce a new cat to resident cat(s), separate the new cat for the first couple of weeks. Allow the cats get used to each other's smells through door of the new cat's safe haven. Expect an adjustment period of days, weeks, or even months. Hissing, growling, chasing are completely normal. *Do not expect the cats to be friends right away. Cats are very territorial and usually do not immediately accept a newcomer. If the cats are still not getting along after a few weeks, you likely need to take a step back and separate them again so you can repeat the introduction process.*
- Cat/dog introductions: Fido should be under control, either by leash or by voice (or both), while Fluffy is allowed to approach or hide on his own terms. Please read the "Cat-Dog Introductions" Handout for more details.
- Indoors or outdoors?: Outdoor cats have a lifespan of one-quarter that of indoor cats. PHS receives approximately 200 dead cats every month. For your new kitty's sake, please keep your cat indoors! Provide exercise, entertainment, and love for a long, happy, healthy life indoors.

For more info, call our free Behavior Helpline (650/340-7022 x783 or, for Spanish, x786) or consider a low-cost consultation. To make a consultation appointment, call 650/340-7022 x667. The PHS/SPCA Behavior Department, like many shelter programs, is funded by donations.