



No Kill Glynn County, Inc.

Congratulations on Adopting a New Cat and Saving a Life!

Thank you for adopting a new cat! We want this to be a positive experience so that you and your cat can live happily together for a long time. Here are some tips for starting your new relationship.

First Day Home

You have just committed to adding a new member to your family. This can be enjoyable but also stressful for all involved, human and cat. When bringing your cat home, keep in mind that they have probably been through a lot in the last few days or weeks. They may have been lost on the streets for a period of time before coming to the rescue or been given up by their previous owner. Being adopted into a new family can be very overwhelming for a cat, especially in the beginning.

Your first day with your new cat should be spent allowing them to get used to their new home. Establishing a safe room for your cat will help them adjust easier. Cats are territorial animals and do best if they are introduced to one small part of a new home at a time. Pick a quiet room where your new cat can stay until they have adjusted.

Some Supplies Your Cat Will Need

- **Food:** Regardless of which brand of food you decide to provide, your new cat may experience digestive issues in the beginning. Since it is likely that your new cat will be eating a food different than what was offered in the past, your cat's digestive system may need some time to adjust. Remember: if you are concerned about anything you are observing, please schedule an appointment to have a veterinarian examine the cat.
- **Water:** All cats need fresh water available. Some cats prefer cat water fountains, which are available at retail pet stores and online. Using a water fountain can encourage your cat to drink more and promote proper hydration.
- **Litter box, Litter, and a Scooper:** This is one of the most important purchases when adopting your cat as this is where your new cat will use the bathroom. We recommend getting two litter boxes for your first cat and an additional litter box for every other cat in your home – for example: if you have two cats, you will have three litter boxes placed throughout your home.
There are many types of litter boxes available. We recommend choosing a litter box big enough for your whole cat to fit inside and turn around in, with sides high enough so that nothing is hanging out over the edge. Make sure to get a scooper and scoop at least once daily! Everyone likes a clean toilet.
- **Scratcher:** Scratching is a natural behavior that all cats exhibit and scratchers are important outlets for your cat. Scratchers help prevent inappropriate scratching on walls or furniture. Some cats like horizontal scratchers and some prefer the vertical. **Declawing is not something condoned by No Kill Glynn County**, and it is a permanent physical alteration of the cat that can lead to other behavior issues. Please contact your veterinarian if you need help with inappropriate scratching. There are many ways to redirect and manage this natural behavior.
- **Cat Tower:** Cat towers are like scratchers in that there are a wide variety out there to choose from, and some cats have clear preferences. Cat towers also provide your cat with more space and territory to run around. This is especially important in multi-cat homes.
- **Toys:** All cats love toys! There are huge varieties of toys available, from homemade entertainments like crumpled up paper and empty boxes to deluxe toys from pet stores. A good way to keep things fresh is to group your cat's toys into small collections and offer your cat a different selection every week or two. Most cats really enjoy wands with toys on the end of a string. Playing with your cat using these interactive toys can help you form a lasting bond with them.



No Kill Glynn County, Inc.

During the Weeks to Come

Everything they encounter will be new and possibly stressful for them, so it is important to allow your new cat to adjust at their own pace. It could take three days, it could take three weeks, or three months – every cat is different. A good indication that your cat has adjusted to their new home is when they are eating, drinking, and using the litter box normally. Remember to practice patience, time, and love as your new cat adjusts! If your cat is not adjusting, seek advice from your veterinarian.

Introductions

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 your current pets.

- **Swap Scents**

Switch sleeping blankets or beds between your new cat and your resident animals, so they have a chance to become accustomed to each other's scent. Rub a towel on one animal and put it underneath the food dish of another animal. You should do this with each animal in the house.

- **Switch Living Areas**

After your new cat is using their litter box and eating regularly while confined, let them have free time in the house while confining your other animals to the new cat's room. This switch provides another way for the animals to experience each other's scents without a face-to-face meeting. It also allows the newcomer to become familiar with their new surroundings without being frightened by other animals.

- **Contact Stage**

Do short, supervised meetings, then increase the time based off behavior.

- **Avoid Fearful and Aggressive Meetings**

Avoid any interactions between your pets that result in either fearful or aggressive behavior. If these responses are allowed to become a habit, they can be difficult to change. It's better to introduce your pets to each other gradually so that neither animal becomes afraid or aggressive. You can expect mild forms of these behaviors, but do not give them the opportunity to intensify. If either animal becomes fearful or aggressive, separate them, and start over with the introduction process in a series of small, gradual steps, as outlined above.

Training

Training should begin early, no matter how old your new cat is. Socializing kittens is crucial to their development and will help you have a well-rounded adult cat. Talking to, touching, and playing with your cat all lead to a more socialized pet. For all cats, we recommend training. Training is a great form of positive reinforcement that can help teach a cat manners, help a fearful cat become more confident, or relieve a cat's stress. Your veterinarian can help with this.

Veterinarian Recommendations:

Coastal Cat Clinic

Dr. Lisa Ryan
912-634-2119
280 Redfern Village
St. Simons Isl, GA

The Pet Doctor

Dr. Nicola Overman
912-222-9519
110 Anderson Way
Brunswick, GA

SEGA Vet Clinic

Dr. Shireen Hamid
912-554-8388
104 Candler Dr
Brunswick, GA

My veterinarian is/will be: