



Pre-adoption advice: Cats



Meow!



Rescue. Protect. Lead.



We're delighted you're interested in adopting a cat from the Scottish SPCA. To make this transition as smooth as possible for you and your new companion, here is some advice to help you prepare:



- Register with a vet and make sure to ask about out of hours care.
- Although your cat will come with 4 weeks free PetPlan insurance, prepare for when this ends to ensure your cat is covered for future medical and behavioural needs.
- Entering a new home can be very stressful for a cat so we advise taking your cat straight home and having their safe space set up in advance. It's important to discuss with those you share the home with how you can keep this space private for your cat and keep any other existing pets away.
- Entering a new home can be very stressful for a cat so we advise taking your cat straight home and doing your shopping in advance of bringing your cat home. When you're buying new bits for your cat, we advise getting each cat their own items plus an extra one. This means that your cat has plenty of choice and if you do have more than one cat, this reduces the risk of any potential conflict. Remember this rule of thumb when buying new items for your new cat. Here is a list of essential items our team recommends:

■ Food and water bowl

- **Food** (our teams can tell you about their current diet)

■ A comfy bed

■ Litter trays

- **Litter** (our teams can tell you what the cat is already using)

- **A scratching post** (tall enough for the cat to reach and extend fully on)

■ Grooming equipment

■ Cat toys

■ A secure and sturdy cat carrier

as you won't be able to collect your cat without one! Place a blanket inside the carrier and use another blanket to place over the top to help them feel secure when you're collecting them.

■ Feliway

Feliway products are a synthetic version of pheromones that female cats release to help relax her babies. We suggest spraying some in your cat's safe space, the blanket in the carrier, and using a plug in the day before your cat comes home. All of these methods can be used to help reduce their stress during your cat's journey home.

- Cats do not need to wear a collar but if you choose to do this, make sure to get a quick release safety collar so it will easily snap off if the collar becomes caught on something, such as branches outside.



- Set up your cat's safe place with a bed, scratching post, litter tray, food and water bowls, and a few toys. Be mindful that cats like things in a certain way:
 - Their food bowl must be separate from their water bowl, and both should be separate from their litter tray.
 - The litter tray should be in a quiet location.
 - Set up a hiding space within the room – this could be a bed under a table, or a cardboard box.
- We recommend creating a few hiding places around your home and giving your cat a selection to choose from. Each space should be made cozy with a blanket or a bed, and make sure you include choices which are low like underneath a table and some which are higher up like on a cat perch. This helps your cat find what's comfortable for them and helps to make them feel safe in their surroundings.
- Be mindful that when your cat first arrives home, they may be quite scared in their new home so may try to seek out ways to escape their safe place and your home. We recommend locking your cat flap if you have one and discussing with other household members the importance of keeping doors and windows closed.
- Getting home may be stressful if you are planning on taking your cat home via public transport. Please let our team know if this is your intention and we can advise you on how to make this journey as least stressful as possible.
- It's important that you give your cat time to adjust to its new surroundings without adding too many other stresses at the same time. We always advise planning for a quiet first few days with minimal visitors to allow your cat time to acclimatise to their new home.
- Introducing your cat to another cat, dog or other animal can be stressful for all involved. Please discuss this with our team so we can advise you on the best way to introduce them safely or advise on how you can keep them separate if needed.
- Before you come to collect your cat, make sure you check your cat's safe space and home for any potential hazards like toxic plants, foods, or cleaning products that are unsafe for cats.



For advice on how best to take care of your cat, please visit our website:

www.scottishspca.org/advice/cats/