

# Purrs And Whiskers Shelter, INC.



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## THE ADJUSTMENT PERIOD!

### *What to expect during the first few weeks with your new CAT/KITTEN*

**THINK ABOUT THIS:** Your new cat/kitten may have been abandoned or surrounded by a previous family. The cat/kitten had to adjust to its foster home and now is going home to a new, unfamiliar place with strangers. Kind of scary if you think about it! Being gentle, considerate, kind and patient will help ease your friend into his new family.

**I'M SCARED:** Your cat might be afraid and unsure of his new surroundings. It is completely normal for a cat to hide out for the first couple days or even weeks. It is best to put your cat in a small private room to start. Instead of giving him access to the entire house. Be sure to have his food and litter box close by.

**ESTABLISH A ROUTINE:** Routine is important for cats; they want to know what to expect. Establish a routine for feeding, litter box duty, play time, and grooming. Make sure these duties are performed on a consistent schedule.

**EXPECT MISTAKES:** Your cat had a completely different routine before he met you. He may have used a different litter, eaten a different food, and had another set of rules. A new routine will take some time for him to adjust to; **PLEASE BE PATIENT.** Keeping him in a small private area to start will help him with his new routine. If you need help, call the PAWS member who fostered your cat.

**THINGS CAN GET TOUCHY:** Many cats are uncomfortable being picked up and held, but will sit in your lap happily for hours. Some like to cuddle right beside you. Let your kitty do what's most comfortable for him. Petting and cuddling are important, but don't overwhelm your cat with too much attention. Respect your cat's need for rest and privacy.

**HOW LONG WILL ALL THIS TAKE:** Allow your cat or kitten several weeks to adapt to its new surroundings and up to 4 months to fully adjust (adult cats may take longer than kittens). **Adopting a pet is a lifetime commitment.** We assume that you will make a patient and concerted effort to achieve a successful placement.

**CALL AND ASK:** If you have any concerns or problems regarding your animal's health or behavior, please don't hesitate to call PAWS at 321-752-5120.