



# FieldHaven Feline Rescue

## *Mission*

*Educating our community on responsible pet ownership while providing safe haven for cats and kittens in transition to new lives in permanent homes.*

## **9 Ways to Welcome Home your New Cat**

Congratulations! You have just begun a relationship that's bound to be filled with fun and affection. By starting off on the right foot, you can cut short that rocky adjustment period most new relationships go through.

- **Go slowly at first.** A new cat may need seven to fourteen days to relax into her new environment. Save meet-and-greets with friends, neighbors and relatives until the cat is eating and eliminating on a normal schedule. \_\_\_\_\_ (please initial)
- **Offer her a safe place to hide while she gets her bearings.** She'll appreciate the chance to observe her new family's routine from a small, dark space or one high above the action. Keeping her confined to one room of the house will help her become acclimated more quickly. Never bring a new kitty home and give them the run of the house right away. \_\_\_\_\_ (please initial)
- **Did you know that stress is a leading cause of litter box problems?** And introducing a cat to a new home or situation is one of the most stressful events in a cat's life. Since cats are territorial by nature, they need to feel secure in their new environment in order to relax. Placing your new arrival in a quiet, confined area, such as a bathroom or bedroom for the first 7-14 days will minimize the stress on a new kitty and *help prevent inappropriate urination* when you begin to allow them to explore the rest of the house. If you already have resident cats, make sure each cat has a separate safe zone with its own food, water, their own litter box, and clean it daily. Some cats will not use a litter box that another cat has used or one that is full. Most cats prefer a non-hooded litter box. \_\_\_\_\_ (please initial)
- **Bring your new feline to a caring veterinarian for a wellness exam within one week after adoption.**
- **Provide the same diet she had at the shelter at least for the first week or two.** If you wish to switch to a different flavor or brand, slowly make the switch over one to two weeks, starting with a quarter ration of the new food mixed into the old favorite. From there, up the ratio of new to old about 10% each day.
- **Cats must scratch, so make sure to provide yours with a sturdy, rough-textured scratching post to save wear and tear on furniture.** Clipping their claws every ten to fourteen days also help reduce damage.
- **Cat-proof your home before giving your new feline run of the house.** Put away harsh cleaning products, human medications and household poisons. Re-home any poisonous houseplants. And if the newcomer is a kitten, lock away any breakables and remember to keep the toilet lid down.
- **Once settled in, a young cat or kitten will be eager to play.** Stock up on interactive toys such as feather wands and kitty fishing poles to engage attention and direct energies toward a positive pursuit.
- **Ready a comfortable cat perch on a sunny window sill** - if it overlooks the birdfeeder, all the better! Observing live birds and squirrels beats out kitty videos any day.