

## Bringing Kitty Home

Now that you have a new member of the family the following information and tips will help to make their adjustment easier on everyone!



### Congratulation on your new furry baby!

With your adoption package you've received a contract, a quick start guide (including a basic shopping list), as well as the contact information for Platypus Protected in case you have any questions in the future.

### Kitty quiet time when you get home:

Your new kitty has had quite the journey! From an unknown beginning, to a foster home, a scary ride in a van to visit the vet, to a new home filled with strange noises, smells, routines, people and sometimes other pets! After all this your new kitty will need some quiet time to adjust to its new environment. Set them up in a small quiet room (a laundry room or second bathroom) with their bed, litter box, food and water. This will give them a manageable space to get used to in their own time, and to get acquainted with the household routine. Spend some time in the room with them, keeping things calm and quiet so they can feel safe and get to know you a bit. Depending on the kitties comfort level, this process can take from 24 hours to 2 weeks.

### Introducing your new kitty to the other animals in the house:

**Dogs:** let the dog and cat get used to each other's smell before introducing them face-to-face. Rub each with a towel and then let each investigate the others' towels safely in different rooms. Once they seem okay with that, you can move to a face-to-face introduction. Always make sure that the kitty has a way to get away from the dog (jumping up a scratching post or over a baby gate), and never leave them alone together without supervision until you know the cat will be safe. There will probably be a lot of hissing and spitting from the cat, but so long as the cat knows it can get away from the dog things will go better.

**Cats:** cats are very territorial, so to your old cat a new kitty in the house can be quite an ordeal! And for your new kitty, going into a house that smells like another cats territory is going to be very scary. Again, you can ease them into the idea by letting them get used to each others' smell. While your new kitty is in the quiet room getting used to house is a great time to trade towels or cat beds so they can get used to each other's smell. Once they're comfortable with that, you can move to a face-to-face introduction. You can put one cat in a carrier or under a laundry basket so they can see and smell each other through the holes, without being able to fight. If every one gets upset, then split them up and try again later. Lots of short visits are better than a prolonged bad one! Keep it short and sweet, and repeat it often. Get them used to the idea of the other being there in the house before you expect them to be best friends! Once they seem calmer with these short visits you can prolong them, get them to play with toys through the holes of the carrier or basket, or feed them each treats together. Make their time together fun, and positive (ie. treats and food)!

Then, if things are going well, you can open the carrier or lift the basket and let them actually interact with each other. Again... keep it short, sweet and positive with treats and toys, and gradually prolong the sessions. Remember, you don't want them to just tolerate each other, you want them to be best friends! So taking extra time at this stage will mean years and years of life together. This total process may take a week, or even up to a month!

**Lastly**, if your kitty at home isn't up-to-date on their vaccinations you will want to make sure your cats are kept totally separate for 10 days. That way, if one kitty has a cold it won't pass it to the other! One sick cat is enough, nobody wants to deal with two or three!