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# Bringing Home Your New Cat

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Adopting a cat can be a very exciting time for you and your family but for your cat it is a life changing moment. Cats have very long memories so you want to make the best first impression possible. The following tips will help you make a smooth the transition to your home as smooth as possible for your new cat.

1. **Bring your cat home in a carrier.** Before placing your cat in the carrier place a soft blanket or towel in the bottom of the crate. Spray Feliway on the bedding or wipe the inside of the carrier with a Feliway wipe to give the cat a feeling of safety and comfort. Place the carrier in the floorboard behind the front seat if possible, this is the most secure place for your cat to be when in their carrier. Play classical music at a casual volume while you are in the car to further relax your cat. When you get home, place the carrier in a quiet area of your home near your cat's food, water, and litterbox, open the carrier and allow the cat to exit when they are ready.
2. **Create a cat sanctuary.** Cat's need to feel like they are safe and secure to be successful in their new home. Since cats appreciate predictability, moving into a new home can be a difficult time for many adult cats. Provide the cat lots of things that they will enjoy such as perches at different heights, or cat trees, comfortable bedding, things to hide in such as boxes or covered beds, a litterbox of their own and some fresh food and water. When you get home, place the carrier in the cat's new area near their food and water, open the carrier and allow the cat to exit when they are ready.
3. **Introducing your cat to other pets in the home.** Take your time introducing your new cat to other pets in your home. First impressions are very lasting for cats and for the best results you want the meeting to go well. Keep all other pets away from your cats sanctuary place until your new pet has had a chance to come out. Once your new cat has settled into his new home (this could take a few days or weeks) you can allow the new cat to explore your home while you place your other cat (s) in the cat sanctuary room. This will allow the other cats to get used to the new cats smells. You may also find that the cats may smell each other through the cracks in the door or the smells on you as you move from one area to another. These are all great ways of getting your cats used to each other before they actually meet each other.

For behavior and training advice, please contact Operation Kindness at [behavior@operationkindness.org](mailto:behavior@operationkindness.org)