

## *Shenandoah County*

### *Animal Shelter*

268 Landfill Road  
Edinburg, VA 22824

540-984-8955

540-984-8517 FAX

*animalshelter@shenandoahcountyva.us*

# Your new kitty

## What to expect in the first few days

Cats like routine, not change. Everything will be pretty scary for your new cat at first. It may take a few days for your cat to become comfortable with you....be patient. Try placing your new kitty in a "safe room" until he feels comfortable enough to explore the rest of your home. This could take a few days up to a week, depending on the cat.

Give your cat time to settle into his new surroundings before lavishing him with attention. Sometimes the quickest way to kitty's heart is through his stomach. Try offering a bowl of wet food or some delicious cat treats to encourage bonding.



## Multiple Pet Homes

### *Cats*

- Begin introducing the smells of each cat to each other by brushing all of the cats with the same brush to get their scents on each other, or swapping blankets that the cats use.
- Feed a special treat on either side of the door so that the cats will associate each other's smell with something good.
- After a few days of scent-introduction, try a face-to-face introduction. Put the newcomer in his carrier and let the resident cat come into the "safe room".
- Do this controlled introduction a couple more times, closely observing each cat's behavior.

### *Dogs*

- Keep your cat in his safe room and get them accustomed to each other's smell by switching bedding daily.
- For the first meeting, put your dog on a leash and have him lie down and stay for treats. You may need someone to supervise the cat on the other side of the room.
- Make sure your cat has an escape route and a place to hide.
- After a few introductions, allow your cat to interact with your dog in a "down-stay". If either animal gets too excited or aggressive, slow down!

**All interactions should be supervised until you are CERTAIN they are safe together!!**