

REHOMING A PET

SETTLING IN TIPS

GIVE THEM A SAFE SPACE

The general rule is 3 days to decompress, 3 weeks to feel at home. Your new pet will need a few days to get used to the smells, sounds and habits of their new household so keeping them in a separate space, with a hideout if they need one, will help them settle in this new life.

Once comfortable with their surroundings you can open more rooms for them to explore. A smaller space opening to a bigger space is best and gives them the chance so they grow in confidence with both their new family and environment.

MEETING NEW ANIMALS

Keep existing pets separate for at least a week while your new pet settles into a routine. Introductions can begin with placing bedding/ used and scented items belonging to your existing pet in the room with your new one. Meet and greets by sniffing under the door or behind a glass screen are also great! We recommend pets be kept separate for the health of both animals as the stress of adjusting to a new environment can trigger underlying ailments or behavioral issues.

During the settling in period keep food, water and litter boxes separate so there's no competition. Toys and your cuddles can be shared. Up to date vaccinations are recommended and always make sure both animals are in good health before there's any contact.

DIETARY

Where possible keep them on the food they're used too and slowly wean them over to the new food if you'd like to change their diet. Transitioning 1/4 of their plate at a time is recommended. Should they get loose bowls during their adjustment period chicken mince or breast is great for firming stool up.

You can often find pet mince at local butchers and plain shredded chicken is usually a crowd pleaser.

TOILETING

Ask their foster parent what litter works best and set aside at least one litter tray per cat where they'll be toileting most. While they're getting used to their new home we recommend a couple of options if they have multiple rooms to choose from - e.g. one in their safe place and one in the lounge.

If they're shy, a covered option may suit them better than an open box.

When they start transitioning to the outside world they may naturally begin to toilet outside. If this isn't the case slowly move their litter box closer to the door and eventually outside (have a dedicated one inside in the event of accidents).

GOING OUTSIDE

Naturally your pet will be curious to see the outside world. Wait until they are settled and know their surroundings before letting them out. Be careful to close doors and windows during this period as they can be escape artists! The recommended time is 2 weeks but you can gauge what is best for your pet's personality and confidence level. The more confident they are the quicker they can to explore safely!

Be mindful of the time of day, who's coming and going from the property and neighbouring animals when considering this step. Supervised outings of an hour or so around mealtimes are a good place to start.

REGISTER YOUR MICROCHIP!

If your cat/kitten has a microchip it will need to be registered to your name. Registering their chip adds them to a national database so that if they're ever lost they can be returned to you.

You can do this on <https://www.animalregister.co.nz/>. If they are registered to a different guardian, ask them to Rehome the cat on the NZCAR system. They'll find a link to do this on their user profile.

MOST IMPORTANTLY...

Be patient and kind. It's a big change and the start of their happily ever after.

