

# SETTLING IN YOUR NEW CAT



Oxfordshire  
Animal  
Sanctuary

Here's a general guide to settling in your new cat.

Please bear in mind that cats are unique in their behaviour, and each one requires varying lengths of time and patience to fully adjust to home life.

## TIPS FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION

### KEEP THEM INDOORS!

- 🐾 Keep your cat indoors for at least four weeks to help them adjust.
- 🐾 If they are unvaccinated or not yet neutered, do this before letting them outside.
- 🐾 Please make sure all windows, doors and cat flaps are locked to avoid escape.

### Safe Spaces

- 🐾 Provide a retreat for your cat when visitors or children are around.

### Snuggle Station: Create a Cosy Settling Spot

- 🐾 Provide a cosy spot for your cat to settle in.
- 🐾 Offer a soft bed, a cat box, or a raised scratch post in a quiet corner of a room.

### Patience Is Key

- 🐾 Give your cat time to relax and approach you at their own pace.
- 🐾 Avoid forcing interaction.

### Curiosity Isn't Always a Bad Thing

- 🐾 Allow your cat to explore and familiarise themselves with the new environment.

### Venturing Out

- 🐾 Time the first outdoor outings when your cat is hungry, so they are more likely to return.
- 🐾 Reward their return with their favourite food or treats.

### Expect Unusual Eating Patterns

- 🐾 Don't worry if your cat is initially disinterested in food, be patient, this is normal!
- 🐾 Offer small pieces of food by hand and let them eat at their own pace.

### Sleeping Patterns

- 🐾 Understand that your cat may take time to find a comfortable sleeping spot.
- 🐾 Provide options until they choose their preferred spot.

### Gentle Approach

- 🐾 Use soft, gentle tones when addressing your cat.
- 🐾 Avoid raised voices that may intimidate them.

## ROUTINE FOR YOUR NEW CAT

### Responsibilities

- 🐾 Establish house boundaries and where the cat is allowed to go.
- 🐾 Discuss and decide feeding times, responsibilities, sleeping arrangements, and outdoor restrictions.

### Consistency Is Key

- 🐾 Stick to the established rules and routine.
- 🐾 Cats thrive on consistency and stable house rules.

### Expectation of Adjustment Period

- 🐾 Understand that it may take time for your cat to adjust to the new environment.
- 🐾 Be patient and understanding during the transition period.

## HEALTH + SAFETY

### Register with a Vet

- 🐾 Register your cat with a local vet for regular check-ups and assistance.

### Pet Insurance

- 🐾 Consider getting pet insurance for comprehensive coverage of potential health issues.

### Flea and Worming Treatments

- 🐾 Stay up-to-date with flea and worming treatments recommended by your vet.

### Microchip Your Cat

- 🐾 Ensure your cat is microchipped and your details are accurate and up to date in the microchip system.

## GENERAL CARE FOR YOUR NEW CAT

### Regular Grooming

- 🐾 Brush your cat's fur for bonding and to keep it in good condition.

### Climbing and Scratching

- 🐾 Invest in a tiered scratching post to satisfy your cat's natural instincts.