



ROCKY ROADS RESCUE

ADOPTION INFORMATION PACK

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🐾 Welcome to the purr-fect adventure with your newly adopted feline friend from Rocky Roads Rescue! ☀️

Before you whisk your whiskered wonder home, here are some tips to ensure a smooth transition!

When bringing a new addition to the family home it is important to ensure that they have their own space to be able to decompress, adjust and relax. This space needs to be separate from other animals in your home to ensure that they are able to let their guard down in their own time and learn all the new sounds, smells and events that happen in their new home.

Remember, they have just been teleported in a magic box to the great unknown - leaving everyone and everything they understood behind.

A 'catified' closed room or laundry make for a great space to let your newly adopted cat begin their adjustment into their forever home.

BEFORE BRINGING YOUR CAT HOME

- Make sure everything's on lockdown - screens, windows, you name it - so your little explorer won't accidentally pull a Houdini on you.
- Block off any nooks and crannies where your cat could pull a disappearing act. We want cosy corners, not kitty hide-and-seek nightmares!
- Ease your new buddy into their new digs one step at a time, starting with a chill-out room that's got all the essentials. And yeah, keep that toilet lid down - nobody wants any unexpected dives!
- Create a kitty oasis in a spare room, complete with a fancy litter box, a buffet of food and water, and a plush bed. It's the VIP treatment for your furball!
- Keep your furniture safe from kitty claws by offering up some scratching alternatives that are way more appealing. It's like a cat spa day for their paws!
- Turn your place into a playground for your furry friend with climbing spots and hidey-holes galore. It's all about kitty-approved fun zones!
- Treat your cat to the high life with a sweet cat tower where they can survey their kingdom from on high. They'll feel like true royalty!
- Lay down the law with the family about how to treat your new pet. Ensuring everyone is on the same page on how your new cat will be looked after in the home. Teamwork makes the dream work when it comes to welcoming a new fur member!

THE FIRST FEW WEEKS

- Ease into the room with a slow and steady approach, getting down on the floor and chatting away in a friendly, calming tone. Don't rush to reach out to the cat - let them make the first move.
- Roll out the welcome mat by showing your cat where the litter box magic happens. A gentle nudge in the right direction goes a long way!
- Spend some quality time bonding with your new feline friend - petting, playing, and maybe even sharing a story or two. It's like a slumber party, but with purrs!
- Give your cat their own little slice of paradise, whether it's a carrier without the door or a DIY cardboard castle. Let them feel like the kings and queens they are!
- Respect your cat's need for a little alone time - if they wanna chill in their secret spot, let 'em. We all need a break sometimes!
- Help your cat get used to the sights and sounds of their new home sweet home. It's all about making them feel right at home!
- Hang out in the room as much as you can, keeping it chilled on the floor or snagging a low seat like a beanbag or chair. Talk to your furry friend, dive into a good book, or even catch some Z's - the goal is to let them get used to your presence before you peace out. Each member of the household should take turns popping into the Bonding Room for some quality time with the cat, but remember, hands off until they come to you first.
- When your cat's feeling comfy in the Bonding Room, it's grooming and playtime! Break out the brush for some gentle grooming (but go easy - not all cats are brush fans right off the bat) and whip out the toys to spark some friendship. A simple shoelace can work wonders as an interactive toy - just watch as they pounce and play, bonding with you in the process. And hey, if your cat's been living the domestic dream, they'll be cuddle-ready before you know it.
- Keep an eye on the little humans - if they're joining in on the bonding fun, make sure there's a grown-up in the mix to keep things cool. Excitement can sometimes slow down the bonding process, so it's all about keeping the vibe chill and the bond strong.

INTRODUCING THE ANIMALS TO EACH OTHER

- When you're welcoming a new fur ball into the family, give them some space away from other pets at first. Keep the door shut tight to avoid any surprise meet-and-greets.
- Set up a cosy spot for your new buddy to crash, complete with their favourite blanket or bed and a couple of toys for entertainment. A catnip toy is always a hit, helping them ease into their new home.
- Once they're feeling comfy and curious, let them start exploring their new home at their own pace. It's all about letting them call the shots!
- If you've got other pets, introduce them slowly and steadily. Start with a little scent swapping - give your resident pets a pat, then give the new cat a pet too. Let them sniff each other out

under the door for a bit of friendly curiosity. And don't worry if there's a bit of hissing - it's all part of the process!

- Keep your new kitty completely indoors for the first month. Rocky Roads Rescue always urges our adopters to keep their cats indoors at all times. If you want to be able to let your fluff explore the outside world invest in a catio. It's safer for them and the local wildlife, and keeps the neighbourhood harmony intact
- Remember, good things take time - so be patient and show your new pal plenty of love. The more effort you put in at the start, the stronger your bond will be down the road.

THINGS NOT TO DO

- Changing your cat's diet too quickly. Stick to the same grub your kitty's used to from their foster home. If you gotta switch it up, do it gradually - cats are creatures of habit, after all. Keep their dining routine consistent too, serving up meals at the same time every day.
- Changing your cat's litter too quickly. When it comes to the litter box, slow and steady wins the race. Stick with the same litter they're used to, and if you're thinking of making a change, take your time easing them into it.
- Open windows and doors. Keep those windows firmly shut - cats can work wonders when they're spooked, and the last thing you want is a daring escape artist on your hands!

THINGS TO DO

- At the end of your two week trial Rocky Roads Rescue will send you out your cat's vaccination certificates, desexing certificates, worming and flea information - it's like your cat's own little manual. Jot down important dates like due dates for flea treatments, worming sessions, and vaccinations in your calendar or diary.
- Swing by the vet's office if you need to organise a final vaccination and to have your cat's microchip scanned. Double-check that the number matches up with what's on their paperwork. Mix-ups can happen, so it's always best to be sure.
- Keep your cat's microchip info up to date. Rocky Roads Rescue will push the cat's microchip out to you through the website it is registered to (Central Animal Records, Australasian Animal Registry etc) using the details from your contract. Keep an eye on your emails! Make sure to accept and transfer the chip as soon as possible. That way, if they ever pull a disappearing act, you'll be the first to know.
- Keep your cat entertained with some fun toys. It'll save your hair ties and socks from vanishing into the void! You don't need anything fancy - crumpled-up paper or some string will do the trick. And let's be real, a cardboard box is like Disneyland for cats.
- Save your furniture from a feline manicure by providing a scratch pole. You can pick up a cheap one at the store or get creative and make your own out of carpet squares.

- If you ever decide to pack up and move, don't forget to update your cat's info with the microchip database. It's crucial for keeping track of them if they decide to explore their new neighbourhood solo.

EATING AND TOILETING

- Stay cool, calm, and collected! Your new furball will likely chow down, slurp up some water, and do their business in the litter tray when you're not around. But hey, some cats might take a day or two (or even more) to get into the groove - it's totally normal. Just keep soothing them with your sweet voice.
- While most cats won't keep you on the edge of your seat like this, every kitty's reaction to their new home is a bit of a wild card. If your new cat isn't chowing down, sipping water, or hitting the litter box after a couple of days, it's time to ring up your vet for some expert advice.

EXPLORING THE HOUSE

- If you've got another feline friend at home, introducing them carefully now will lay the groundwork for purr-fect harmony. Let your cat call the shots and take their time – even the most skittish kitties can blossom into happy, social butterflies given a little patience.
- It's all about letting your new cat set the pace: when they're ready to venture out of the Bonding Room, they'll give you the signal. On average, they might hang out there for a couple of days to a week, but trust me, they'll let you know when they're ready for the next step. Keep an eye out for those friendly vibes – when they start following you around, it's go time!
- Before giving your kitty the green light to explore the great indoors, double-check that all doors and windows are secure. And if you've got a cat flap, lock it up tight – your furball needs some time to get the lay of the land before venturing outside.
- When you sense your kitty's itching for a change of scenery, crack open the door to their room and let 'em roam free. Leave the door open so they can retreat back to their safe space if needed. No need to play tour guide – just let them explore and settle in at their own pace.
- Cats have a knack for finding comfort in familiar spaces, so don't be surprised if your furball heads back to the Bonding Room from time to time. It's totally normal. If they scurry off to hide, resist the urge to chase or corner them. Instead, call their name gently and offer a reassuring presence. Let them know you're there for them, no strings attached.

SUPERVISED OUTSIDE TIME

Rocky Roads Rescue strongly advocates for keeping your beloved feline indoors or providing them with access to a secure enclosure. By opting for indoor living or a protected outdoor space, you're not

only safeguarding your kitty but also minimising the risk of hefty vet bills, impound fees and fines from your local council and protecting local wildlife from potential harm.

But hey, we get it - cats love to explore! Thankfully, there are safe ways to satisfy their wanderlust:

- Teach them the ropes of harness training and take them out for supervised strolls in the great outdoors.
- Transform your backyard into a kitty paradise by cat-proofing it with affordable netting or investing in a pre-made enclosure. We're big fans of www.catnets.com.au, but there are plenty of options out there to suit your needs.

Finally, we want to send a massive thank you for choosing Rocky Roads Rescue for your adoption journey! 🐾

By welcoming this furry friend into your home, you've not only given them a lifetime of love and care, but you've also made room for us to rescue another cat in need. It's paws-itively heartwarming!

AND FINALLY, THANK YOU!

Don't be a stranger - keep us in the loop with plenty of adorable photos, videos, and updates! 📷

Be sure to give us a follow and stay connected on platforms like Facebook and Instagram to stay in the know about all things Rocky Roads Rescue rescue-related.

Wishing you the best of luck on your next big adventure with your new feline companion! 🍀