

# INTRODUCING YOUR NEW CAT TO YOUR HOME



*There is a period of adjustment for any new addition to your household. Using these simple tips will help make this transition a smooth one, and life with your new pet great both today and tomorrow.*



**Mon - Fri**  
**11AM – 4PM**

**HOURS:**  
**Saturday**  
**9AM – 2PM**

[www.ashelterofhope.com](http://www.ashelterofhope.com)



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## LITTER BOX ISSUES

Sometimes a cat will stop using the litter box. With a little patience, the problem can usually be corrected.



- **Spraying** – many unaltered cats will spray as a way of marking their territory. This almost always ceases once the cat has been altered. Urinary tract infections or stones may also cause a cat to stop using the litter box. In this case, please consult with your veterinarian.
- If the behavior also involves defecation or you have ruled out S/N and urinary tract infections, the next question is “what changed?” Cats can be very sensitive to change.

## SOLUTIONS

- Make sure the litter box is always clean and offer boxes in different parts of the house. Try different types of litters. If using a box with a hood, remove it or vice-versa.
- Trying confining to cat to a non-carpeted room until he/she begins using the litter box again and then an additional few days.
- Place bowls of dry food near where the cat is eliminating. Cats are very clean by nature, so this may cause him/her to resume using the litter box.

## CAT-TO-CAT INTRODUCTIONS

- **Scent recognition** – Keep your new cat separate from existing cats and periodically swap beds, blankets, etc. so they get used to each other's scent.
- **Limited contact** – After a few days, crack the door just enough for the cats to get nose-to-nose contact. Continue this for a few days.
- **Supervised contact** – When the resident cat is busy somewhere else, let the new cat out to explore. Let the cats “discover” each other. Do not let some territorial behavior bother you. Do not let the cats unsupervised at this stage – have a few short sessions first.
- **Integration** – Once the cats have accepted each other, allow them to intermingle. Feed them in separate areas and make sure there are plenty of toys. You may also want to maintain separate litter boxes.

## CAT-TO-DOG INTRODUCTIONS

- Reinforce basic obedience in your dog (sit, stay, down, leave it).
- Setup the base room for the cat. With supervised contact, keep your dog on a leash. Do not leave the cat and dog unsupervised at first.
- Make sure to praise your dog for positive interactions with your cat and correct him/her for any negative interactions.



## INDOOR/OUTDOOR CATS

- It is strongly recommended that you not allow your indoor cat outdoors for 30 days after bringing him/her home. This will allow time for your cat to associate the structure of your house or apartment as home. If you let your cat outdoors right away, he or she may have difficulty finding its way back home.