



A Game of Cat & House

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Bringing any animal into a new home can be tricky. But choosing the right cat and making the appropriate preparations can make the transition to your house simple. Try to pick a cat or kitten that will adapt well to your environment, taking into account whether you're a single person, have a family with children, a multi-cat household, or a house with both cats and other animals. Also try to choose cats/kittens with a basic temperament that suits your lifestyle. If possible, learn the history of the cat.

Before you bring your new cat home, "cat proof" your house by moving breakable or dangerous objects to an inaccessible area. You might find you've moved everything you own into one room. But once you get to know him/her you'll have a better grip on what percentage of your cat's personality is "lion" and how much is "lamb" so you can redistribute your valuables accordingly.

As for new items, you'll need to stock the welcome wagon with the following to welcome your new kitty:

- A hard-sided carrier (they're easier to lug around and last forever) or a cardboard carrier for short trips.
- A bed, preferably something cozy where the kitten will feel protected.
- A litter pan, with litter, and litter liners or a litter scoop.
- Food and water bowls.
- Food and treats. Kittens need special kitten food until they are 8-months old.
- Comb, brush, and shampoo. It's true that cats groom themselves but a little outside help is always appreciated.
- Toys: Nothing unexpected here. Look for furry balls, shiny things and any object that might resemble a mouse at first glance. Just be careful not to get toys with pieces (like bells) that could loosen and choke the kitten.
- A book on training and caring for a kitten or cat. We're here to get the furry ball rolling, but there's plenty more to cover. Do your feline friend a favor and learn as much as you can.