

## Love them for life

## **SETTLING IN YOUR NEW CAT**

Synthetic feline pheromone, Feliway spray can prevent stress and flu.

## SET UP YOUR NEW PET FOR SUCCESS

- The initial 24 hours should be a calm period of adjustment so it is best for any children to understand that the cat should be left alone for a while just to settle. Lysine, an amino acid can assist to prevent the impact of stress in the first week.
- Keep your new adult cat caged for up to the first week to enable him or her to know that you are the new parent and feeder. This enables your cat to shelter in a safe, small space and reduces stress. It helps you to prevent him or her from hiding: it is not fun spending the first week tipping up sofas to extract a shy, hiding or frightened pet!
- Show your new friend around the home and to the litter tray so s/he has the
  opportunity to eliminate after the drive. Do everything you can to prevent an
  accident: in a two story home, have a litter tray upstairs and downstairs. If you
  have a cat already, ensure a second and a third litter tray for the newcomer.
- Find out if your glass or breakable objects will be safely displayed with the new cat or if he or she is likely to panic and send them flying.

## **ACCLIMATISATION UNCAGED**

- Place the tray in a quiet accessible corner where your pet will not be disturbed. Make sure that the litter tray is not right next to food and water bowls: s/he may be reluctant to use the litter tray if it is too close to food.
- Provide a quiet, warm and well ventilated area/room where s/he can retreat and let him or her explore at his/her own pace. Restrict access to one room initially.
- If you want to appeal to your new friend, spend time on the floor and allow family members to visit individually rather than crowding into the room all at once. Allow your cat to approach you on his or her own terms. Children should have limited supervised contact initially to avoid the cat being over-handled.
- Keep your new cat inside the home for at least 12 weeks and if a kitten, they should not go into a garden for the first 9 or 10 months of life as they may not escape predators. If you already have a resident cat, don't rush the introduction as this is a very important step.

Now, enjoy and enrich each other's lives.

