

First Week Home Checklist

For: Cat — Day-by-day settle-in tasks so the first week feels calm instead of chaotic.

Pet's name: _____

Date home: _____

BEFORE THEY ARRIVE

- ☐ Set up one quiet base room with litter box, food, water, and a hiding spot
- ☐ Keep the litter box far from food and water
- ☐ Buy a few days of their current food to avoid a sudden switch
- ☐ Add a scratching post near their base room

DAY 1

- ☐ Bring them straight to the base room and let them explore in their own time
- ☐ Skip forcing interaction — sit nearby and let them approach
- ☐ Keep other pets separated behind a closed door for now

DAYS 2–3

- ☐ Start a steady feeding schedule
- ☐ Watch litter box use for signs of stress or discomfort
- ☐ Offer a few toy options to see what sparks interest

DAYS 4–7

- ☐ Begin short supervised access to one more room
- ☐ Start slow scent-swapping if introducing another household pet
- ☐ Book their first vet visit if it isn't already scheduled

New Pet Supply Shopping List

For: Cat — Everything to have ready before, or right after, pickup day.

Pet's name: _____

Date home: _____

FEEDING

- ☐ Food and water bowls or a fountain
- ☐ A few days' supply of their current food
- ☐ Treats for positive reinforcement

LITTER

- ☐ Litter box (one per cat, plus one extra is a common guideline)
- ☐ Litter matching what they're used to, if known
- ☐ Scoop and box liners if you use them

COMFORT & ENRICHMENT

- ☐ Scratching post or pad
- ☐ A few toys, including one wand toy for interactive play
- ☐ A cozy bed or blanket in their base room
- ☐ A carrier they can get used to, not just travel in

EVERYDAY CARE

- ☐ Brush suited to their coat
- ☐ Nail trimmer
- ☐ ID tag and microchip registration confirmed and up to date

First Vet Visit Prep Sheet

For: Cat — What to bring and what to ask at their first checkup.

Pet's name: _____

Date home: _____

BRING WITH YOU

- ☐ Any records from a shelter, rescue, or breeder
- ☐ The carrier, ideally already familiar to them
- ☐ A list of any behaviors, appetite, or litter box changes you've noticed

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- ☐ What vaccines are due now, and what's the schedule going forward?
- ☐ Should we test for FeLV/FIV if it hasn't been done?
- ☐ What food and feeding amount fits their age and weight?
- ☐ When should we talk about spay or neuter timing?
- ☐ What's the plan for flea and parasite prevention?

BRING HOME

- ☐ A written copy of their vaccine and treatment record
- ☐ Next appointment date
- ☐ Any prescribed medication with clear dosing instructions

Home Safety Checklist

For: Cat — A room-by-room pass to make your home safer before they arrive.

Pet's name: _____

Date home: _____

KITCHEN

- ☐ Store chocolate, onions, and garlic out of reach
- ☐ Keep the trash can covered or behind a cabinet door
- ☐ Turn off stove knobs or use covers if they jump on counters

LIVING AREAS

- ☐ Tape or hide loose cords and blind cords
- ☐ Check houseplants against a pet-safe plant list (lilies are highly toxic to cats)
- ☐ Cover or screen open windows — even a small gap is a risk
- ☐ Tuck away small objects like hair ties, string, and rubber bands

BATHROOM & LAUNDRY

- ☐ Keep the toilet lid down and medications in a closed cabinet
- ☐ Store cleaning supplies on a high, closed shelf
- ☐ Check the dryer and washer before every load

BALCONIES & HIGH SPOTS

- ☐ Add secure screens to any open windows or balconies
- ☐ Check nothing breakable sits where they're likely to jump