



▶ Fostering is an ideal activity for people that love animals but cannot commit to having a lifelong pet in China.



▶ Most animal rescue groups in Shanghai do not have a shelter, so they depend on the help of rescuers and foster parents.



▶ It is a rewarding experience to give an abandoned and/or mistreated animal a second chance in life.

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JAR's

Introducing your cat to a new baby

Many new mums or mums-to-be worry about their cats' behavior towards a new born baby. Sadly, this often leads to pets being given up for re-homing as soon as a baby is on its way ... but this does not need to be the case! With a little pre-baby preparation, some patience and common sense there is no reason why babies and cats should be mutually exclusive!

Pre-Baby Preparation

The best idea is to "prepare" your cat well in advance of the arrival of the baby. This will mean that he or she doesn't associate the baby with a lot of changes all at once, loss of attention and a wealth of new and unfamiliar objects and sounds. Let your cat get acquainted with the nursery and the smell of the crib and all the baby paraphernalia, but do not on any circumstances let your cat sleep in the crib! It is a good idea to let your cat get used to the sounds of a baby - the cries of an infant if unfamiliar could be very stressful for your pet. If you have a friend with a baby, invite them round or even make a recording of a baby crying. After the baby is born bring a blanket home with the baby's scent and let your cat sniff the blanket but not sleep on it.

Introduction

Then when baby comes home let your cat sniff the baby all she wants- use a calming voice and rewarding treats to reinforce that this is a positive new arrival and not a threat to get jealous or stressed out about. Repeat this introduction several times to let both baby and cat get acquainted. Remember that cats are creatures of habit so try to maintain the cats regular routine! Its important to allow some "quality time" for you and your cat even just for a little time each day to be pampered and petted in order for him / her not to feel too sidelined ... maybe when the baby is sleeping? Using pheromones such as Feliway that can be obtained from

your vet can help to alleviate any stress that your cat may feel with the new arrival.

Safety

When the baby is sleeping ensure that your cat does not have access to the baby and never allow them to sleep together. Never leave baby and pet unsupervised together. Make sure that your cat is up to date with worming and flea treatment. As baby grows up you want to encourage a respectful behavior toward your cat! Little hands are prone to poke and pull and this can make a cat defensive or fearful of the new addition. Try to reinforce gentle handling or the idea that maybe kitty wants some time on his own.

If you take all this into consideration there is no reason why your baby and cat shouldn't live in harmony together in your home!!!

For further information check the following:
http://www.purrfectcatbehavior.com/cats_and_babies.html



Jaiya's Animal Rescue

Website: <http://jargroup.doodlekit.com>
JAR Galleries: <http://jar-galleries.doodlekit.com>
Blog: <http://jarshanghai.wordpress.com>
e-mail: shanghaidogs@gmail.com



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