



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



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# JAR's

## Introducing a cat to a new home

Adding a new cat to the family is a positive experience for all involved, but it is essential that the new pet be introduced properly. There is one important characteristic that most cats share, and it is helpful to keep this in mind when you bring a new one to your home.

### Cats do not like change!!!

Understandably, then, bringing a cat into a whole new situation requires some understanding and patience on your part and especially so with a rescue cat who has already experienced settling into a foster home after rescue and before that could have been subject to neglect and/or abuse.

- Just in case the cat manages to escape his "safety room", it is essential to make sure that all windows or balconies are closed.
- When you bring your new cat/kitten home, put him/her in a small, safe area - bathrooms are often a good place. Certainly just introduce them to only one room to begin with to give them a sense of safety.
- Make sure they have water, food, a litter box and a nice blanket or box to snuggle into.
- They may want to hide under or behind something at first, and that's okay. Let them do it without trying to pull them out; they will come out when they feel safe ... or hungry!
- Visit them often, but don't let other animals or noisy/excited kids in.

- Speak to them in a calm and gentle manner so that they get accustomed to your voice.
- Don't force yourself onto the new pet, especially if he/her appears very shy - let them get used to you and the new surroundings at their own pace.
- To help keep up some continuity from their last environment feed the same type of food and use the same type of litter ... in time you can gradually introduce other food or litter but this will help to begin with.

### Introducing to your other pets

Generally, it's believed the easiest introduction is a new cat that is younger, smaller, and of the opposite sex, but it really depends on the personalities and experiences of the felines involved.

Tempting though it may be, it can be a big mistake to rush this process. The slow approach is well worth the extra time, and you ensure your pets are all happy and comfortable in your home. If you do have other pets in the family, they will be very curious about the newbie in the other room - run a washcloth, old sock or other fabric along the new pets' back, and take that cloth to the animals that you already have. Take another cloth and run it over your other cats/pets, and deliver that to your newcomer ... animals are very tuned in to scent, so they can learn about each other by smelling the cloth. This will give them the chance to get familiar with each other before they officially meet.

**Some cats will get on great together with not much trouble, but some don't!!!**



## Jaiya's Animal Rescue

**Website:** <http://jargroup.doodlekit.com>  
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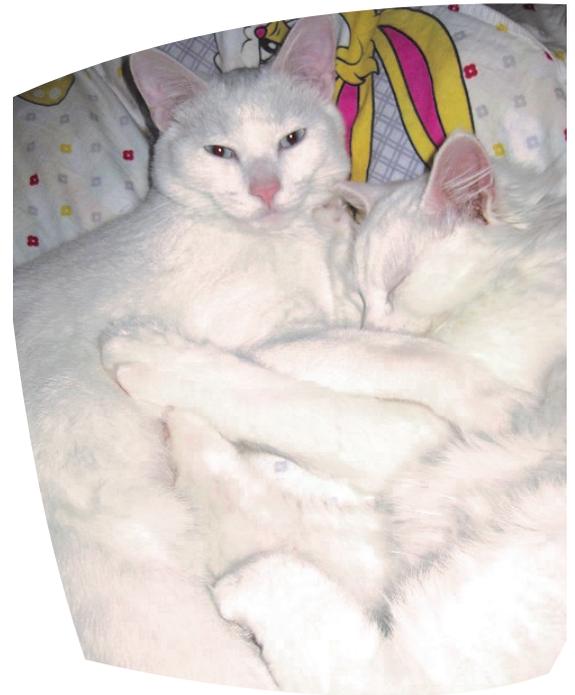
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- You want to try to avoid any interactions between the cats which result in either fearful or aggressive behavior.
  - If these responses are allowed to become a habit, they can be difficult to change.
  - It's better to introduce the animals to each other gradually (five minutes more each day) so that neither cat becomes afraid or aggressive. You can expect mild forms of these behaviors, but don't give them the opportunity to intensify.
  - If either cat becomes fearful or aggressive, separate them, and you may have to take a step or two back.
  - Cats can make lots of noise and roll around quite dramatically without either cat being injured. If small spats do occur between the cats, you should not attempt to intervene directly to separate the cats. Instead, use a spray bottle to squirt water on the cats in order to separate them.
  - Give them both a chance to calm down before re-introducing them to each other - like a day or more. Hopefully, none of this will be necessary, but if so, be confident that while cats can take weeks to months to get adjusted, most cats can learn to get along, if not become the best of friends.
- other while trying to use the box.
  - Keep the resident cat's schedule as close as possible to what it was before the newcomers appearance.
  - Calming products like Rescue Remedy and Feliway spray (available at pet supply stores) can help de-stress cats.



### Tips for after the first introduction

- Keep separate litter boxes for the resident cat and the newcomer and keep the newcomers box in the isolation room even after the cats are out together - if you want to move it, do so gradually a few feet at a time to the new location.
- Clean all the boxes more frequently.
- Make sure that none of the cats is being "ambushed" by an-



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