



HOW TO INTRODUCE YOUR NEW SOLAS RESCUE CAT INTO YOUR FAMILY

Council Bluffs
SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER

The 3-3-3 rule helps guide the adjustment period for your new cat:

THE FIRST 3 DAYS . . . The cat may be scared or overwhelmed. Give them space, quiet, and time to decompress.

NEXT 3 WEEKS . . . They'll start exploring, learning the routine, and showing their personality. Begin gentle socialization.

AFTER 3 MONTHS . . . Most cats feel settled, confident, and fully part of the household. Patience will pay off!

→ INTRODUCTION

Take each step slowly — every cat is different. If aggression or regression occurs, go back to the previous step(s).

INITIAL SEPARATION

Keep your new cat in a separate room for at least a week, allowing the resident cats (or other pets) to become accustomed to the new cat's scent without direct interaction.

SCENT EXCHANGE

Swap bedding or toys between the pets to help them get used to each other's scent.

VISUAL INTRODUCTION

Allow the pets to see (and smell!) each other through a barrier like a screen door, glass door, or baby gate.

SUPERVISER INTERACTIONS

Gradually increase the time the pets spend together, always under supervision, observing their body language and reactions.

UNSUPERVISED INTERACTIONS

Once the cats show signs of comfort and acceptance, gradually increase the time they spend together unsupervised, but be prepared to separate them if necessary.

FEEDING TOGETHER

Feeding both cats close to each other, or even together if they are comfortable, can help create positive associations.

GRADUAL ACCESS TO ENTIRE HOME

Once the cats (or other pets) are comfortable with each other, they can have a slow, gradual access to the entire home, but ensure each cat has a safe space to retreat to if needed.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- **Watch for Stress or Aggression:** Monitor body language and behavior. If signs of stress appear, separate pets and return to the previous step.
- **Positive Reinforcement:** Use positive reinforcement, such as treats or praise, to encourage positive interactions.
- **Age and Temperament:** Kittens generally tend to adjust more quickly than adult cats.
- **Patience is Key:** Don't rush the process, and be prepared for it to take time.
- **Individual Differences:** Some cats will bond easily, while others may never become friends.

QUESTIONS?

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