Dos and Don’ts during the First Week after Adoption

Thank you for keeping me indoors and not declawing me!

Do in the first week after adoption:

- **Start the cat/kitten in a small room.** A guest bathroom or den without a lot of furniture is best. Make sure there is not a bed in the room. Keep the cat/kitten in this room until they are completely comfortable with you and your family. Install a night light so the room will not be completely dark at bedtime.

- **Provide the cat/kitten with the same food/litter the shelter uses and fresh water.** SHFC uses a Pine pellet litter but you can transition to any unscented scoopable clay litter and we feed Science Diet food. Any changes in food or litter need to be done gradually.

- **Introduce change gradually.** Keep the visits quiet and calm. Children must be supervised. Introductions to other family pets must also be supervised and brief.

- **Spend time with the cat/kitten in the small room.** Playtime and quiet time with the family members is helpful to build trust and familiarity.

- **Ask questions.** Please contact SAFE HAVEN FOR CATS or your veterinarian if you have questions or problems.

Don’t in the first week after adoption:

- **Don’t let the cat/kitten loose in the house at large.** The animal will find a hiding spot typically under a bed or behind furniture. It will be stressful and difficult for you to work with the cat/kitten.

- **Don’t make sudden changes in the environment, food, litter, or water of the cat/kitten.** Cats find change stressful and a new home is a major stress. Introduce changes gradually after the settling in period is over.

- **Don’t make loud noises or have major disruptions.** Cats in general are often startled by loud noises and household disruptions. Avoiding these at the beginning will help build confidence and trust between you and the cat.

- **Don’t become discouraged!** Whatever issue you may have has happened before! Contact us and let us help you with adjusting to your new lifelong family member!