

New Cat Checklist

Cats settle best when they feel safe and in control. **Set up the home around the five needs below, with hiding and high places, and let your cat decide when to come to you.**

FILLABLE PDF – TYPE ON A COMPUTER OR TABLET, OR PRINT AND FILL IT IN BY HAND.

CAT'S NAME

VET PHONE

ARRIVAL DATE

THE FIVE NEEDS (AAFP/ISFM)

- **A safe place**

A private, raised hiding spot for each cat, with more than one way out.
- **Separate resources**

Food, water, litter, scratching, play and rest apart; **never food beside the litter box.**
- **Play and hunting**

Daily wand-toy play (string toys put away after) and food puzzles to work for food.
- **Gentle people**

Many cats prefer frequent, low-key contact; let the cat come to you.
- **Familiar smells**

Skip strong cleaners, leave shoes at the door, and let your cat's scent marks stay.

SHOPPING & SET-UP

- ☐ **Litter boxes:** cats + 1 (two for one cat), in different places
- ☐ **Scratchers:** a tall vertical post and a flat horizontal pad
- ☐ **A carrier** your cat can rest in, ready for the vet trip
- ☐ **Kitten-proofing:** string, rubber bands, cords, sharp things away

POISONOUS TO CATS

- Lilies (emergency)**

Even pollen or vase water can cause kidney failure.
- Dog flea products**

Permethrin flea products made for dogs can poison cats.
- Human painkillers**

One acetaminophen tablet can be fatal; avoid NSAIDs.
- Essential oils**

Concentrated essential oils are toxic to cats.

FIRST-WEEK LOG

DAY	EATING	LITTER BOX	HIDING / EXPLORING	NOTES

Call your vet if an adult cat hasn't eaten in 24 hours (a kitten under 6 weeks: 12 hours), strains in the box with little or no urine, or trembles after a flea product. Book a check-up soon after arrival; keep a new cat apart from resident cats until examined.

THE FULL VERSION: NEW CAT OWNER GUIDE • ON ETSY: NEWDOGCO.ETSY.COM

Sources: AAFP/ISFM environmental-needs and house-soiling guidelines; Cornell Feline Health Center; VCA Animal Hospitals (household hazards for cats; kitten checklist); ASPCA (lilies).