



Cats are very sensitive to their environment. Therefore, it is important that we provide them with the appropriate resources to help keep them relaxed and happy in their new home. Here are our recommendations for you to try:

- Provide your cat with plenty of vertical space either in the form of a cat tree or existing furniture that your cat can access easily. This allows them to survey their surroundings from a place of safety, making them feel more secure.
- Ensure that all resources (food bowl, water bowl, litter tray, bed etc) are kept apart. Cats prefer these separated to prevent any contamination. If you have multiple cats, each cat should have their own resources in a different area of the house and out of sight of each other plus one spare set to prevent any conflict between them.
- Litter trays should be positioned in a quiet area of the house where they will not be disturbed, ideally in the corner of a room allowing your cat a clear view of anyone approaching. Avoid placing trays near to windows, doors or cat flaps where they could be intimidated by neighbouring cats.
- Scratching posts should be tall enough to allow your cat to fully stretch out, and scratching mats should also be provided to give your cat the option of scratching on a flat surface. To encourage your cat to use their scratching posts, try spraying Feliscratch on them, a synthetic spray which mimics the scent left behind from a cat's paws.
- Make sure that your cat has access to plenty of safe places in your home where they can hide should they feel threatened at any time. Cardboard boxes, cat beds with raised sides or cupboards left ajar make perfect hiding places. When your cat retreats to these places, try not to disturb them and let them come out in their own time.
- Your cat has a keen sense of smell, so avoid using strong air fresheners in your home, and when washing your cats bedding try not to wash all items at once, keeping one item with your cat's scent on will provide them with a sense of security.
- Provide plenty of toys for your cat to pounce on and chase, allowing them to mimic their natural hunting behaviours. This is particularly important if you have an indoor cat as it will reduce the risk of boredom and obesity. To maintain your cat's interest, provide only a few toys at any one time and rotate them to keep their novelty value. Laser toys can lead to frustration; to avoid this, try throwing a small toy for your cat to catch when you have finished playing.

For more information please search <https://icatcare.org>

