

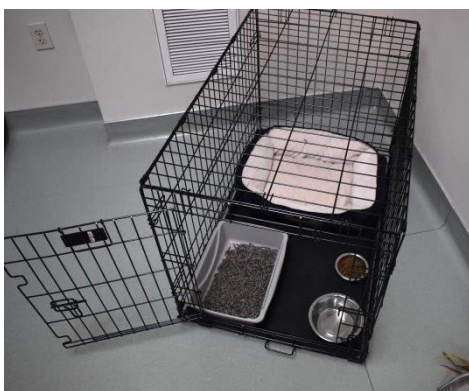
Your New Cat: Using an Acclimation Crate

Your new cat will look at an acclimation crate as a safe haven: a comforting place to help her feel at ease during her transition into your home. It will provide her with everything she needs while preventing her from panicking and finding her own hidey space somewhere unsuitable and uncomfortable. Having access to an entire room can be very overwhelming so please, in the beginning, keep your new cat in a large wire crate and help her stay calm until she starts to settle in. As a bonus, this initial confinement can also help with litter box training.

Setting up your crate:

Once you arrive home, set the crate up in a quiet room. This should be the room that your cat will live in until she is calm and feeling secure enough to introduce to the rest of your home.

Place a comfortable bed in the back half of the crate and place a litter box, food and water toward the front of the crate (pic. 1). Keeping the litter box, food and water near the door will make it easier for you to clean and feed while the cat is in the crate. If there is a bed at the shelter that your cat has been using, we will give it to you to take home. Place it in the crate so he has something that smells familiar. Cover the crate with a blanket to give your cat a feeling of security (pic. 2).



1. Setting up your crate.



2. Use a blanket or towel to cover the crate.

Using the crate:

For the first two weeks, keep your cat in the acclimation crate with the crate door closed. Spend some time each day sitting quietly near her and talking to her. You can also offer treats and see if she is interested in toys.

After a couple of weeks, you can start leaving the door to the crate open to give your cat the option to explore the room (do not open the door to the room). Add a second litter box outside of the crate so that she will know where to go while she is out exploring. Keep the door to the crate open while she is out so that he can run back in if something startles her. You can use a blanket or a toy to make sure the crate door stays propped open. Keep spending time with her each day. Be sure to give her treats or toys as a reward for staying calm when she is outside of the crate.

Once your cat is staying out of the crate and will approach you when you enter the room, you can start leaving the door to the room open. Don't remove the crate from the room. If your cat is feeling overwhelmed, she can go back to her safe space in the crate.

Remember to take things slow and be patient with your new cat. You'll both be much happier in the long run if you give your cat time to slowly acclimate to life in your home.

Need help? Call our free pet behavior help line at (503) 416-2983.