

Bringing Home a New Cat

With resident cats already in your household

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It's always fun and exciting when you get a new kitten or cat in your family. However when bringing in a new baby into your home and you already have a resident cat, it is best to take the following steps to avoid causing health problems (cats are second to birds in the spread of disease).

1. Set up an isolation area for the newcomer. Do not let the newbie out with the resident cats to avoid transmission of parasites, Feline Leukemia or Feline Aids. Do not expose your resident pets to the newcomer's food & water bowls or litter box. It *will stop* the transmission of airborne diseases, but will minimize the exposure.
2. Take your new baby to a veterinarian. Asap... Take a fresh fecal sample with you to the vet. If the new baby has any parasites you will only have to treat this baby and not the whole household.
3. Keeping the newbie in isolation for 3 weeks then have the blood tested for (FeLV) Feline Leukemia & (FIV) Feline Aids, this is a blood test that can be done at the vets office. It takes about 21 days from the day of exposure for most cat to test positive for these two viral diseases. Hopefully the new kitten will be negative. If the newcomer tests positive you have not exposed your resident cats to these deadly diseases. If your new baby is negative great you can now introduce it to the resident cats.
4. Now that the new baby is clear of any parasites or diseases it's time for the introduction to begin.... Sometime introductions can go very smoothly however you want to introduce the kitty slowly. Cats have a different social greeting then we do. So we need to let them speak their cat language.
5. Have supervised time in the beginning. You should expect some hissing and growling in the beginning, but with time it will subside. It can take from 2 weeks to several months for the resident cats to except the newcomer.

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