

# SO YOU'VE ADOPTED A CAT... HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL NEED!

To help you start off on the right “paw,” here are some things your new friend should have ready at home! Please note, however, that each cat has their own individual needs, so preferences may differ from cat to cat! >^.^<

## **Cat food**

While staying with us, your pet has been fed \_\_\_\_\_.

We feed each cat ½ cup daily, and can give you a sample-sized bag to take home. If you have a specific brand of food you'd like to use, we recommend transitioning over to the new food over a few days, to ease any discomfort your pet may have. To help transition, begin mixing the old food with the new food starting a few days after you arrive home until the old food is gone. We also feed most cats ½ of a small can (or ¼ of larger cans) of wet food every day. Cats should have a separate bowl for their food and water.

## **Litter**

While staying with us, your pet has been using non-clumping, non-scented litter. Unless your pet has a special need, your pet can use any brand or type of litter. We recommend using unscented litter, as some cats find scented litter quite overwhelming!

## **Litter box**

There are many different types of litter boxes! While here, most cats use a larger, un-covered litter box. In some cases, cats will need a tall-sided litter box, or even multiple litter boxes. The rule of thumb for cats is to have one litter box per cat plus one. For example, if you have two cats, it is recommended to have three litter boxes.

## **Toys**

Cats love a variety of toys, and they come in all shapes and sizes (and colors)! From plastic toy balls to catnip filled mice, your adoption counselor can tell you what types of toys your new family member will play with!

## **Optional Items (your cat may enjoy these)**

### **Cat bed**

Most cats, but not all, enjoy laying on the cat beds in their kennels. Something soft and squishy may help make your cat's transition to a new home easier.

### **Scratching post(s)**

Scratching posts provide your new cat with a great way to stretch and keep their claws healthy (and helps to keep nails trim). Some cats prefer cardboard scratchers versus the rope or sisal types, but different surfaces help cats stretch different muscles! Vertical, horizontal, even angled scratching posts will help your cat stretch their back and shoulder muscles. Did you know that cats also use scratching posts to communicate with other animals? By leaving their scent on a scratching post, they're letting other animals know “I was here!”

### **Catnip**

Surprisingly, not all cats will respond to catnip. Some will become hyperactive and do all sorts of crazy “cat-robotics” with their toys! Catnip can also have a relaxing effect on cats, and your cat may become more mellow and carefree. If you buy catnip at the store, you'll find it comes in a catnip spray and the dried, sprinkled leaves. Either can entice your cat to play or use a scratching post.

### **Vertical Space**

Window perches, cat trees and floating shelves can be great for cats to explore their environment and feel secure. Cats love to be high up and watch their world down below! Having vertical space can also give cats a place to retreat to if the “ground level” is overwhelming.