

Your Checklist for Bringing a New Cat Home

1. A litter box

The [litter box](#) is just about the most important thing in your cat's life. All you need to get started is two simple old-fashioned litter trays. (You can get fancier, specialized ones once you figure out your cat's litter box preferences.) Get the largest ones that will fit in your home, because your cat needs at least some space to turn around and dig. Even if you are getting a kitten, stick with a good-size litter box so she doesn't grow out of it. The rule of thumb is one more litter box than the number of cats. (If you have one cat, then two litter boxes.)

2. Cat litter

Along with the litter boxes, you're going to need something to put in them. There are all sorts of [cat litters](#) out there, and the sheer variety can be confusing. Here at Talbot Humane we use Equine Bedding Pellets from Tractor Supply. You can get a 40 lb. bag for about \$6.00, you may want to buy the same kind for your cat to use in her new home. You can always transition her to your preferred brand later.

3. Food and water dishes

Your cat needs a [food and water dish](#) of her own. These should be stainless steel, glass or lead-free ceramic that are dishwasher safe. Get a separate food and water dish, not a combo dish, so the food and water don't spill into each other.

4. Food

We feed the kittens and cats Science Diet hard food that should be mixed with which ever kind you want to feed them, in order to not upset their stomachs. A bag is provided when you adopt. The wet food is usually Fancy Feast or Friskies, which they get twice a day in a separate bowl. Kittens should get Pate in Poultry or Beef flavors, adults can have any type they like. Wet, Dry and Water should all be in separate bowls.

5. A cat tree and Scratching surfaces

Cats view their territory in three dimensions, and you can maximize your cat's territory even in a small space by buying a [cat tree](#) and placing it near a window so your cat can have a view of the action going on outdoors. Buy a tree that's at least 6 feet tall. It should be sturdy and heavy enough to not go flying if your cat jumps and plays on it.,.

If you want to keep your cat from [scratching your furniture](#), buy things she can scratch. Cats tend to prefer either horizontal or vertical scratching surfaces, so have both types ready. A good [scratching post](#) should be at least 3 feet tall with a heavy base so it doesn't wobble or fall over when your cat uses it. Sisal rope is better than carpeting as a surface for your scratching post because it's more durable. Cardboard scratch pads are inexpensive and easy to find, so purchase several of those and put them in various places in your home.

6. Toys

[Toys](#) are crucial for any cat, no matter how young or old. They help to build confidence, keep your cat's mind stimulated and can prevent unwanted behaviors like biting or scratching. Interactive toys like fishing poles with lures on the end of a string are particularly important. Cats love crinkle balls and toys that move, tunnels and little fuzzy play mice. You can also make toys for your cats, that they will love.

7. Beds

Even though your cat will probably spend most of her time sleeping on your furniture, give her at least one bed of her own. Cats prefer [beds](#) with high sides where they can curl up for a nice, comfortable nap. If you're bringing an older cat into your home, try a heated bed; it's a great way to ease the pain of creaky joints. Heating pads aren't recommended because they can get too hot and burn your cat.

8. Identification

All cats are microchipped before they leave Talbot Humane and are registered by us. You will receive a notice of registration within a month of adoption.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the shelter at 410-822-0107