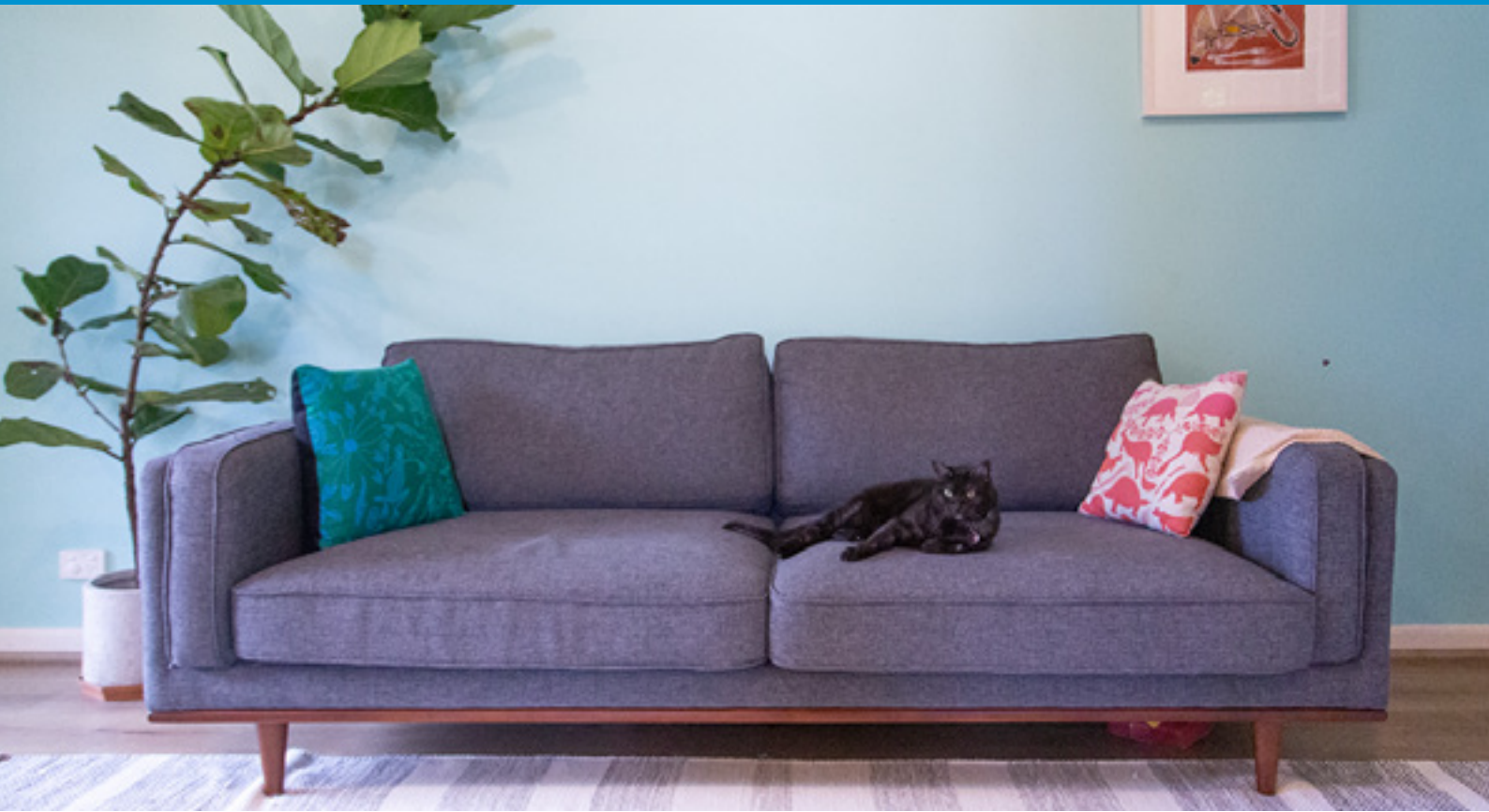




SETTLING YOUR NEW CAT INTO THE FAMILY



Creating a 'safe zone'

Most cats experience stress when in an unfamiliar environment. To help them adjust to their new home, temporarily place them in a quiet area of the house with easy access to their essential resources. A spare bedroom is a great option, just make sure that doors and windows are closed to prevent escape. It is important to prepare this space in advance by removing any items that could cause harm to your cat such as poisonous plants, substances or equipment.



Key Resources

Introducing a new cat to your household can take time. Use the checklist below to ensure your new cat is set up for success. When two resources are required, place them in separate locations.

- 🐾 Food Bowl
- 🐾 Water Station x 2
- 🐾 Litter Tray x 2
- 🐾 Resting/hiding place x 2
- 🐾 Scratching Object x 2
- 🐾 Toy x 2

The first night

Your cat should remain safely inside their carrier until placed into a corner of the safe zone. Leave the carrier door open and allow your cat to venture out on their own when they are ready. The carrier should remain in place so that your cat can use this as a hiding space. Leaving the carrier out for the long term may help your cat learn that their carrier is a nice place to be, which can make future transport easier for everyone.

If multiple people live in the home, each person should individually visit the cat so the cat is not overwhelmed by too many visitors. However, children should always be supervised. It's best to give your cat time to get comfortable with their new surroundings before trying to interact with them.

The time that a cat should be confined to its safe zone will vary from cat to cat. It's important that they are comfortable in this space, before exposing them to the rest of the house.

Signs your cat is not ready to leave their safe zone

- 🐾 Hiding when you enter the room
- 🐾 Low tail, low body
- 🐾 Hissing or growling
- 🐾 Not eating, drinking or using the litter tray

If you are worried about your cat's physical health, please contact your vet. If you would like to speak with a professional about your cat's behaviour, email us at

mail@rspcansw.org.au



Signs your cat is ready to explore the rest of the home

- 🐾 Approaches when you enter the room
- 🐾 Relaxed body, high tail
- 🐾 Meowing or purring at you
- 🐾 Eating, drinking and using the litter tray regularly

Introducing your cat to the rest of the home

When your cat is ready, allow them to explore other areas of your home. However, keep the door open to their safe zone, as they should always have a choice to return to it if they want to.

Your cat may prefer to simply observe their surroundings at first and you can help them feel more comfortable by giving them space. Once they seem relaxed and confident in the home you can gently toss them some treats, offer play with wand toys or, gentle pats to see if they are interested in interacting with you.

Don't worry if they aren't! It may take them some time to feel comfortable. Your cat should have a choice when it comes to touch – this helps them feel safe with you. Keeping to a routine in the home helps your cat understand when important things happen, which means that they can settle in better and feel good for the long term.

