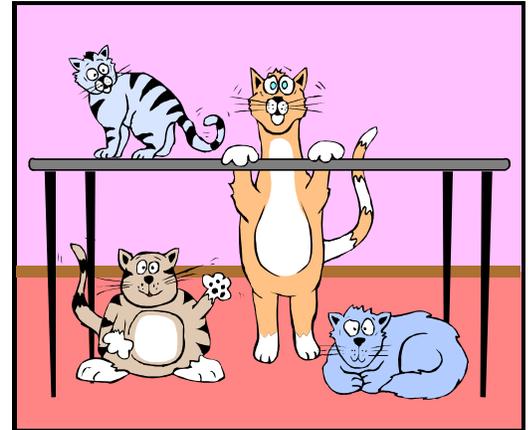


## “2-WEEK METHOD FOR PERFECT CAT INTRODUCTIONS”

**FIRST WEEK:** DO NOT LET YOUR RESIDENT CAT SEE YOU BRING IN THE NEWCOMER! Leave the newcomer in his carrier in the car, while you go in the house and gently put your resident cat in a bedroom with a snack, and shut the bedroom door. Then bring in the newcomer’s carrier, and take it into a “different” bedroom (or a bathroom) which will be the newcomer’s “own room” for the first full week. The newcomer’s room should have a litter box on one side of the room, and food and water dishes and blanket on the opposite side of the room. A radio playing soft music will help soothe the new cat when you are not in his room. (If you are using a bathroom, be sure the toilet is kept down!) Visit your newcomer as much as you like during the first week; but keep the door closed at all times. The resident cat will know that another cat is in the house, but it will be much less stressful for both parties not to have to actually see each other during this crucial first week period. Your newcomer needs this time to let his/her immune system and nervous system calm down after moving from one type of living situation to the total newness of your home. Also, if the newcomer is on the verge of coming down with a “cat cold” (very common with shelter cats or cats under stress) you will have time to see the symptoms and treat the new cat before it has infected your resident cat. This will save you money in vet bills, and keep your resident cat well. Keeping the newcomer in only one room for the first week will also bond it to using its litter box, because it won’t have to try to remember where it is! Your resident kitty should also receive lots of attention and treats during this week; and be sure to talk to him a lot and use his name often in conversation. Tell him you have a wonderful new friend for him, but that he can take his time getting to know him. Remind your resident that he/she will always be your “top cat”, the head cat in the house.



**SECOND WEEK:** Pick a quiet evening, after all people and cats in the house have had dinner and have relaxed, full tummies. Now open the door of the newcomer’s room, and let him choose his own time to come out and explore. If he wants to stay in and hide, that’s fine; let him do what makes him feel the most comfortable. **THE KEY TO SUCCESS IN THIS SECOND WEEK IS TO PRETEND THAT THE NEWCOMER IS INVISIBLE TO ALL PEOPLE IN THE HOUSEHOLD, FOR SEVEN DAYS.** (Mark the seven days on the calendar to remind yourself, because this is hard to do, but it is the most important part of the introduction process.) Do not talk to the newcomer, do not pick him up, and do not pet him. When your resident cat is in the room, focus all your attention, petting, and talking on your “top cat”. Feed the newcomer only in his “own room”, after you have made sure that the resident cat is elsewhere. Each cat should continue to have his own litter box permanently, in separate room permanently, if possible.

## REASONS WHY THE NEW CAT MUST BE INVISIBLE FOR SEVEN DAYS:

\* You are following this procedure because you want your cats, whether residents or newcomers, to be good friends (or at least tolerate each other well) so that the cats will be happy in your living situation (which will also make the humans in the house happy!)

When you are careful during this special second week to treat your new cat as INVISIBLE, you will cause two very good things to happen. First, your resident cat will be watching his people like a hawk to see whether anyone is paying attention to the new “interloper”. If he sees you doing things for and with the newcomer, your resident cat will be certain that he is being replaced; and he will decide to greatly dislike the new cat, and will not want to befriend him. (Your resident may even attack him, or may even scratch or bite his people to show his tension and distress about the newcomer!)

When your “top cat” sees that you are ignoring the new kitty completely, he will begin to calm down through the seven days, as if to say, “Well...Mom and Dad are giving me lots of love and attention, and they are paying no attention to that new cat, so...I guess this is okay...I’ll let him stay.”

(You can expect some initial hissing and batting each other and a little chasing between the cats, while the top cat lays down the ground rules of the house. But, don’t leave them alone together during this second week; and use a firm “No” and a squirt of plain water from a squirt bottle if they are getting too rough with each other.)

The second good thing that will happen during this week, is the your newcomer will miss attention from his new people; he will want someone to play with and interact with ...since you (temporarily) are not providing that, he will seek out the resident cat and purposefully try to make friends with him—which is exactly what you wanted.

By the end of the second week of this method of introduction, about 90% of well-socialized cats will be accepting the new house-mate, providing there are not too many cats for the size of your home. If you have resident cats or newcomers who are very shy, have had difficult lives, or have ever been mistreated, it would be wise to double or even triple the amount of days for each of the two stages of this introduction procedure. That may seem slow, but it is a very small price to pay to gain what you hope will be many years of enjoying your “happy cats” together!

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***Information Courtesy United Paws  
Tillamook for Spay/Neuter***

