

Introducing your new kitten or adult Russian to your home.

Your Russian kitten will leave my cattery at the age of 12-14 weeks. Once they have recovered from their spay or neuter.

You will be exceptionally excited to take your new baby home but remember he or she is just a baby. Having left behind his entire world that he has grown up in he will be insecure, scared and over whelmed by his new surroundings so below I have set out the procedure to make him feel secure and happy in your new home.

Before your baby even arrives please set up a room where he can be confined for a few days to a week - this will become his "safe room". The perfect room would be a spare room or even your own bedroom. Set up a bed - preferably a box or container that has a lid, if at all possible, so that he can "hide". His food bowl and water which must be filled at all times. A hooded litter tray - I prefer the covered ones as Russians like to be discreet about the toileting as well as very enthusiastic in their hygiene to cover up their mess. A scratch post is important, the taller the better as the jungle gym types are most preferred by Russians. A few toys, Russians love soft squishy balls, rabbit fur rattle'y mice and anything they can chase around and teach you to throw for them so that they may retrieve and return it to you.

When you get home with your new baby place his carrier in this room, open the carrier door and leave him for an hour or two to explore on his own with the room door closed. You can then take a book into the room and sit and read while he takes his time to settle in. Please do not let him out of this room during his settling in period - a minimum of a few days, keep the door CLOSED at all times. During this time he will get to know you his new parent, the new sounds of your home and smells of you and other people or pets. Let him take his time to get to know you. Although the Russian is a very easy going laid back cat he can become over whelmed.

If you have other pets it is a good idea to let them get to know each other under the door. Swap their bedding from time to time so they may get to know each others smell.

Once a few days have passed you can open the door and let him get to know the lay out of your home. Do this under supervision and if you have other pets rather confine them to another room while your new baby takes a first look at his new territory. Let him take his time and remember to call him back to his "safe room" to remind him where his food, water and toilet is. If you are not around to supervise ensure your baby is returned to and secure in his room.

After a week or two and once he has gotten to know you, the lay of the land and your other pets you can start to let him have the run of your home while you are not there to supervise. Ensure that at all times he has access to his "safe room". At this point you should only be permitting him supervised visits to your secure garden.

After a minimum of two weeks and ONLY if your garden is electrically fenced or entirely cat proof may you permit your new child the run of your property.

Always remember that your baby is indeed a BABY, give him lots of love, encouragement and be compassionate. Do not over whelm him in his first few weeks.