

# FEARFULNESS IN CATS

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- 1. Preparation 2. Confinement 3. Feeding 4. Petting/Play 5. In-Home Behavior Consultation •
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**Thank you for adopting a shy cat!**

Your cat took a little bit longer to adjust here at the shelter and therefore has been going through behavior modification for anywhere from 1 - 6 weeks. We expect they'll need a similar amount of time to adjust in your home. It could take a few weeks for them to show their true colors, but it will be worth the wait!

## Preparation

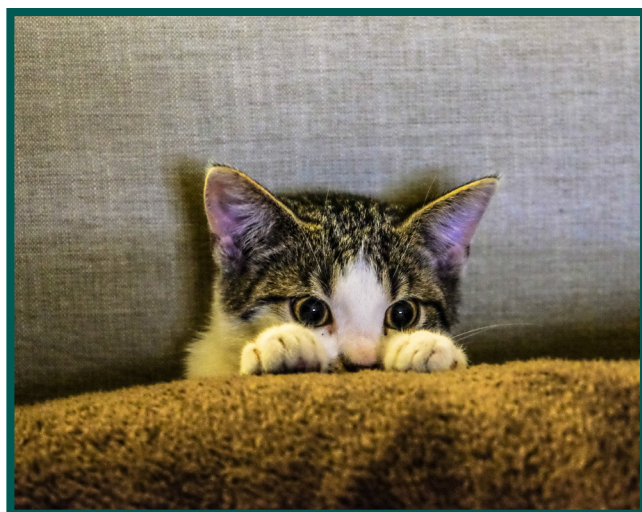
Have the room where you'll confine the cat ready before you bring them home. They'll need food and water, a litter box, plenty of space to climb, scratch, sleep, and hide. Bonus points: Invest in Feliway spray. The man-made product mimics the pheromone that cats leave behind when they rub their cheeks on something. Right before you come to pick up the cat, spray some Feliway on a pillow, blanket, or stuffed toy.

## Confinement

This is very important. Your cat should be confined to one room or a small area of your house for 1-2 weeks or until they're feeling really comfortable. Bonus points: Re-apply Feliway daily if your cat likes it, and consider playing classical music or an audio book on a low volume for a few hours per day to soothe your cat and drown out background sounds like traffic, lawnmowers, or loud neighbors.

## Feeding

Help your cat associate you with something great. Instead of placing food in the room and leaving, sit on the floor while your cat eats their favorite wet food. You could even toss them pieces of tuna or canned chicken.



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## Petting/Play

Do not force interaction. Let your cat make the first move. If they know they have a choice in the matter, they are much more likely to open up.

- a. Entice them to come toward you with treats.
- b. Ask permission before petting by offering a fist. If they don't lean in, check again later. If they lean in to your fist or head butt, continue petting. Check back in every few strokes. Start small with head, chin, or neck scratching before moving on to full body petting.
- c. Encourage play with long wand toys. This way, they can engage in play without having to get too close to you. And, we all know how stress-relieving play and exercise can be.

## In-home Behavior Consultation

If you've tried all of these things and haven't seen any improvement, call the Behavior & Training Department at Lollypop Farm to get more advice over the phone or to schedule an in-home behavior consultation. We can be reached at 585-223-1330x153. We would be happy to help!

### 1. Preparation

Prepare a comfortable, safe space at home for your new feline friend!

### 2. Confinement

Slowly introduce your cat to your house so they feel comfortable in their new space.

### 3. Feeding

Help your cat associate you with something good - tasty food and treats!

### 4. Petting/Play

Build your bond with your new cat by playing with them, on their terms.

### 5. In-home Behavior Consultation

If these tips don't work, let the behavior professionals at Lollypop Farm help!



Pet Peeves  
Behavior  
Helpline:  
585-295-2999



Training Classes  
at Lollypop Farm

Classes Offered in Fairport, Brighton, and Webster

Learn more: (585) 223-1330 x153 • [info@lollypop.org](mailto:info@lollypop.org) • [lollypop.org/behavior](http://lollypop.org/behavior)

