

## Ragdoll Adoption Advice Sheet

When collecting your Ragdoll, please do not travel with them loose in the car. Ensure he or she is safely secured in a large cat carrier. If possible take someone with you who can sit with the cat and give them reassurance, while you are driving.

We advise that you seriously consider having pet insurance for your Ragdoll. If you do decide to insure them, please make sure you arrange the policy so it begins the day they join your family.

We advise that you take your Ragdoll to your own vet within 48 hours of homing them, to register them and for a general health check. It is likely your Ragdoll will need a treatment for worms and fleas, so discuss this with your vet. It is worth considering having your Ragdoll micro-chipped, if they are not already done.

Every Ragdoll is an individual and how quickly your Ragdoll settles into your home will depend very much on their temperament, the reasons for them being rehomed and their past experiences. Some may be very confident and feel at home within hours, others may be timid and will take longer before they feel safe and secure with you. The important thing is to remain calm and positive throughout the settling in period, as any cat will quickly sense your anxiety, which will only make them feel more insecure and lengthen the settling process.

It is advisable to have a room prepared in a quiet area of your home, ready for the arrival of your Raggie, with a litter tray, bedding, water and food etc.

You will also need to have the litter tray/s placed in their permanent position within your home. Site them in a quiet area of the home, where your Ragdoll can use them undisturbed.

Make sure you use the same litter and type of tray (i.e. hooded or uncovered) that your Ragdoll has been used to, for the first few weeks at least. If you do wish to change the litter, once your Ragdoll is settled, then do so gradually by sprinkling a little of your chosen brand onto their usual litter. If they tolerate this and continue to happily use the tray, increase the amount of new litter at each litter change until the switch is complete.

Moving litter trays, poor placement or sudden changing of litter type can cause a cat to become confused and may result in them toileting away from the tray.

Do not be concerned if your Ragdoll does not use their tray for the first day or so.

On arriving home, take your Ragdoll in the carrier to your chosen room, open the carrier door and just allow your Raggie to come out of the carrier in their own time. Some will come out straight away, while others may take a while. Try not to over-whelm the Ragdoll by having too many people within the room. Keep things calm and quiet.

# United Kingdom Ragdoll Cat Community

Registered Charity No. 1112049

Some Ragdolls may wish to explore the entire house on the first day they arrive and if this is the case, this is fine. If your Ragdoll appears confident and nose-y allow them to have access to the whole house or whichever rooms you want your cat to become familiar with. Others may need to remain quietly in the prepared room for a day or more before they feel secure enough to venture into other parts of the house. If this happens, do not worry; just make sure they have all they need within that room. With time and patience they will settle. Most Ragdolls will be settled within a week of joining your family. Some may take longer, but within a month your Ragdoll should feel very much at home.

It is important to continue to feed the diet your Ragdoll has been used to, for the first few weeks, as making changes when they are already stressed by their move, can lead to upset stomachs.

Offer your Ragdoll food at the time they would usually be fed, but do not be concerned if your Ragdoll does not eat for the first two or three days. They will begin to eat once they are feeling secure within their new home.

Please make sure your home is secure. Do not leave windows (including upstairs) and doors open and take care when leaving and entering your home. If a newly adopted Ragdoll gains access to outside they may become disorientated and lost. It is likely your Ragdoll is being homed as an indoor cat only and so should not be allowed free access to outside, as per our homing agreement. However if you have homed a Ragdoll who has been used to going out, then please keep them inside for the first two weeks at least, while they familiarise themselves with their new home and get to know you. If over this time they are contented to be indoors, then it would be advisable to continue to keep them as an indoor cat and not give them outside access. Ragdolls are extremely trusting and are not well suited to roaming. Indoor Ragdolls are safe Ragdolls.

It is very worth taking a quick photo of your Ragdoll on the first day you have them, as a record of what they look like just in case they should escape from the house. Finding a missing cat is much easier if you have a detailed description and a photo.

If you have other pets within the home, then introductions must be made gradually and under supervision. With regards to introducing any resident cat/s to your Ragdoll, you should expect that there may be a certain amount of hissing and animosity. This is quite normal and will continue until a pecking order has been established. This may take several weeks.

We hope you enjoy your Raggie companion and have many happy years together. Please keep in touch - we love to have news and photos of adoptees, from time to time and look forward to hearing from you. If you have any worries at all, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always happy to support, help and advise.