

BRINGING HOME A NEW CAT OR KITTEN TO A HOME WHERE THERE IS ALREADY A FEMALE CAT.

You've have decided to adopt a new kitten. Bringing in a new kitten to a home that already has a female cat resident needs much consideration. Cats are territorial animals and do not take to change very well. This change can be done successfully but will take time and patients on your part. If this is done too quickly it could mean a very unhappy time for but you and your resident cat.

In my experience of over 16+ years with the Bengal breed inappropriate behaviour or litter habits began within days or months of the new addition when introduction was rushed. I know how exciting it is to get your new family all together in one room. Please, take your time and it will pay of Greatly in the end!

Females do not like to share their space! This is true for most mammals and cats are no exception. You need to have her get used to the idea of having another kitty in a close space before you can have them actually meet and share.

Giving your Resident cat loads of love a special attention is also in order so her nose does not get put out of joint. Nothing worse than you petting and loving baby in the other room for hours and giving her nothing but a chin rub or scolding her for hissing under the door. So, keep her in the Loven and even increase it if possible.

You will need to set the kitten up in a room of it's own for an undetermined amount of time. Could be 3-4 days or 3-4 months, depending on your resident cat and her willingness to share. So, two of everything in the meantime.

Take blankets back and forth between rooms so that the cats can get used to each other scents. Allow and encourage play under the doorway. Tie a toy to either end of a string and have it under door with a toy on either side. The cats can play back and forth with this toy and not have it pull through :-).

Once time has passed and you feel it may be time to let the meet though the crack of a door you may do so. If there is any sign of unease simply close the door. You may do this on a daily basis until they are confident enough and ready to meet.