

INTRODUCING DOGS AND CATS

HOW TO TRANSITION SMOOTHLY

SLOW AND STEADY

Cats tend to be territorial and unfond of change. They generally do not quickly accept new pets into their homes. Supervised, gradual awareness of each other is the best method for keeping peace. This can take anywhere from a few days to several weeks or even longer in some cases so stick with it and don't give up.

Patience is the key to a happy and long lasting relationship!



HAVE SAFETY ZONES



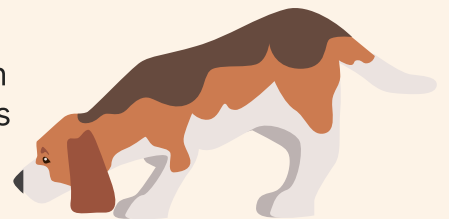
Make sure cats have a separate room or space of their own for a few days or weeks. This room will be off limits to dogs at all times. Keep the cats litter, food, water, and scratching posts in this room.

If your cat is more confident with dogs you can allow them to enter and exit the room as they please by using a baby gate. Less confident cats are prone to fleeing when dogs show interest. For safety these cats should not be allowed to leave the room unless under your constant and direct supervision.

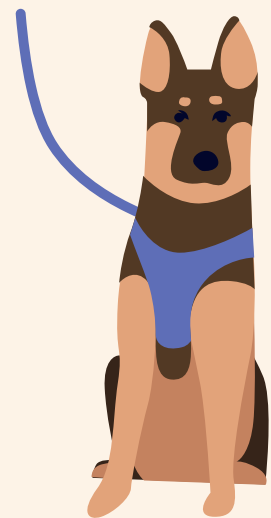
MIX SCENTS WITH SENSIBILITY

Animals get to know one another through scent, not face to face meetings. Even before your pets meet each other you can help them both become familiar with each others scents.

Rotate freedom of the house with each pet, don't let them greet during room changes. Allow each pet to wander freely and take in each others scent after changing rooms. Share beds and blankets with both pets for a few days and then give each others belongs for the other to smell.



REDUCED FREEDOM



Keep your dogs leash on during early meetings with your cat so that you can safely and calmly stop overexcited greetings. Your cat will gain confidence learning the dog cannot get to them and they will become less and less fearful acting around the dog.

Remember cats are a novel experience for your dog. Interest is okay but we are responsible for teaching them manners and how to respect a cats space. Dogs can sniff and look at the cat but we want to keep greetings brief and slowly build up duration (let them sniff a few seconds and then call them away. Continue until the cats entrance into the room is hardly interesting at all.

DO NOT use the cats safety room for this exercise.

COUNTER CONDITIONING

Create a positive association with being around one another. Give treats and affection when both animals can see or even smell each other. Mark yes when they look at each other and give a treat. Slowly increase the duration your dog needs to be around the cat before rewarding.

Keep rewards calm and keep sessions short.

