

Introducing Your Cat to Your Other Pets

No introductions the first week. Allow your kitty to become comfortable in his new environment and with his new human family.

Introducing Your Cat to Other Cats

1. Rub a sock or cloth on each cat and allow them to learn about each other through their scent.
2. Brush all the cats with the same brush to get their scents on each other.
3. Try feeding them each a special treat on either side of the safe room door. This will help each cat associate the smell of the other cat with the positive experience of eating the treat.
4. Put the new kitty in his carrier and let the resident cats enter the 'safe room' and approach the new kitty on their own. Continue short introductions until none of the cats are hissing or acting aggressively.
5. Allow the new cat to leave his safe room while the other cats are present in the area. **DO NOT RUSH THIS.** Let him come out and explore at his own pace.
6. Monitor all interactions closely. During the first few weeks keep the new cat in his 'safe room' when no one is home until there is no aggressive behavior displayed by any of the cats.

Additional tips:

- ✓ Have separate litter boxes for each cat (general rule is one litter box per cat plus one extra).
- ✓ Keep litter boxes in more than one area of the house to prevent one cat from keeping the other from using the box.
- ✓ Position litter boxes so there is an 'escape route' if a cat feels threatened (covered boxes are not the best choice since there is only one way in and out of the box).
- ✓ Use separate food and water bowls.
- ✓ Have plenty of sleeping spots so each cat can have his own space.

Introducing your cat to the dog

1. **KEEP THE DOG ON A LEASH OR IN A CRATE.**
2. Allow your cat to approach the dog when he is ready.
3. Let them sniff each other. If either animal displays aggressive or fearful behavior, separate them immediately and try again later (possibly the next day).
4. Repeat Step 3 several times before letting them roam freely.
5. Keep your cat in his 'safe room' when nobody is home.
6. If the new cat is a small kitten, **take special precautions when the kitten and dog are together.** Large dogs may not know how to be gentle with a young kitten.

7. Be aware that your dog may behave better when you are present, so allow ample time for supervised interactions before letting them be alone together.

Additional tips:

- ✓ Keep food and water out of the dog's reach
- ✓ Keep litter box in a quiet place away from the dog.