

Introducing to other cats in the home

Be **cautious** and **patient** when introducing your new cat to other cats in the household. Animals are territorial and may feel jealous or threatened when a new family member joins the household. Introductions should be **slow** and **gradual**. It can be helpful to leave your new kitty in his carrier while the other kitties smell the carrier so they can get used to each other's scent. Once your new kitty is set up in her own space, she will continue to get to know the other animals in the house by smelling them through the closed doors. Cats may hiss and growl at each other for weeks after being introduced and they might even have tussle now and then. In most cases, this is acceptable behavior and they will work things out.

Extra love, attention and patience during this transition will help to reassure your animals that they are still the center of the universe and there's enough love to go around.



Introducing to other dogs in the home

Start introducing your cat and your dog by sniffing through the doorway to the room prepared for your new cat. After a few days, fill your pockets with treats that your dog loves and treats that your cat will love as well. Keep the door open but block it with a baby gate. Walk your dog slowly by the doorway several times each day for a couple of days. Praise and treat him for calm behavior, and then toss the cat a treat as well. This way, your cat will associate your dog with delicious treats. If your dog overreacts to the cat, distract him and get his attention focused on you. Avoid accomplishing this by using leash corrections. Instead, get your dog's attention by asking him to do basic obedience skills, like Sit and Down.

Let your new cat set the pace. If she chooses to run and hide under the furniture when you and your dog walk by, let her. It simply means your introductions will take longer—maybe weeks longer. Taking things slow will help to avoid a bad first impression.

Keep in mind that cats can take months to form relationships with other animals.

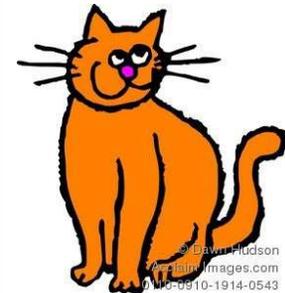
When you're not present or can't directly supervise, keep your cat and dog confined in separate areas of the house.

If your dog seems friendly or cautious, not much intervention on your part is required except to praise and reward your dog for his good manners. Until that point keep your dog secured on a leash



Animal Care
SANCTUARY

Preparing for your new Cat



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Important tips on your new cat!

You have just added an important new family member. Here is some useful information to keep your new family member safe and healthy for the rest of its life!



Supplies You Will Need

- Collar (w/ safety latch or break away capability)
- Cat or Kitten food (wet and/or dry)
- Id Tag and/or Micro chipping
- Food/Water Bowls
- Cat Bed
- Kitty Treats
- Scratching Post or Cat Tree
- Litter Pan/Scoop
- Toys (balls, mice, cat nip, feathers...)
- Kitty Litter
- Vet appointment for first check up
- Carrier (not just for the ride home, but for vet appointments for the next 15-18 years)
- Lots of Love!

Adjusting to a New Home

The first few days:

It's smart to confine your cat to one room where he/she will feel safe and have his/her own space. (Although this may seem cruel by human standards, it is actually a great kindness to allow your cat to claim ownership of a small territory at his own pace and without competition.) Prepare the room with your cat's bed, litter box, food and water bowls, and toys. If there is a window in the room, keep it closed, even if there is a window screen. Frightened cats that are determined can break through a window screen and escape.



Give your cat attention, love, praise, and hand fed treats but also give him/her their space, so the transition is not too overwhelming.

Your new cat may want to hide for a few days (some for longer). Once he/she decides to come out, if he/she runs and hides from you, a guest or children, let him/her go. Do not chase after or try to pick up a frightened cat.

Be patient and understanding. With cats, think in terms of weeks, not days, to settle in (and in extreme cases, months). Take things slowly and your new friend will begin to feel safe and secure at his/her own pace.



Remember it takes Time and Patience.

Litter Box Training

Keep your cats litter box separate from their food/water area. Show your new cat where the litter box is several times so they get used to it. Keep the box clean by scooping daily and changing litter completely every several days. NOTE: Any urinating or defecating outside the box could be a sign of a serious health or behavioral problem. Contact your veterinarian if this occurs.



*Please note:

Our facility uses **WOOD PELLETS** for litter. If your new cat is not utilizing the litter box, chances are they aren't used to the litter of your choice! Please pick up a bag of wood pellets at your local hardware store and transition them slowly to the new litter.

Children and Animals

Instruct all children in the household about the proper way to handle the new cat. Very young animals can easily be injured or killed by the affections of an overzealous youngster. When overwhelmed, a cat may respond by hiding, urinating, growling, scratching or biting. It is helpful for children to be sitting when introduced to a new cat. Let the cat approach the child when he/she feels comfortable doing so. **Do not** let a child seek out an animal that is hiding. Let the cat come out on his own.