



DOG MEETS CAT

Regardless of whether you are getting a new cat or a new dog, the first introduction between your current pet and your new pet is a very important part of the process. It is also important to find out if either pet has had prior success being around different animals. This can determine the long-term success of peaceful cohabitation.

Separate the Animals

- Once you bring your new cat or dog home, for a few days, rotate which animal has freedom and which is confined to allow each animal plenty of time to investigate the other one's scent.
- The dog should be confined to a crate or another room to allow the cat time to roam free and investigate the smell of the dog.
- Feed the animals near each other (preferably on either side of a closed door) so they start to associate pleasant experiences with the smell of the other animal.
- If the dog obsessively digs at the separation barrier or barks at the cat for more than a day or two, the interaction likely won't work without proper training. You may need help from a professional.
- When no one is home, the dog or cat must always be securely confined so unsupervised interactions are not possible.
- Once the dog is calm and the cat is calm, eating, and using the litter box normally, you can have the animals meet face to face.

Make Leashed Introductions

- Exercise the dog prior to meeting the cat, so the dog's overall disposition is calmer.
- Allow both animals in the same room at the same time, but keep the dog securely leashed.
- Continue this type of introduction until the dog is calm and ignores the cat, and the cat is calm, eating and using the litter box normally.
- Some dogs may initiate play with a cat. See how the cat responds before redirecting the dog or pulling them away. Many cats either engage in play, learn to "go to higher ground" to escape the dog, or give the dog a firm warning that they should keep a safe distance.
- Unsupervised time together can occur after the cat and dog have been supervised around each other for about a month or so, and you are positive they will not hurt each other.

Training Tip: If the dog stares at the cat or the door separating the cat, try distracting him and get him to look away with treats, a happy voice or by gently guiding the dog away on a leash. Once the dog is away from the cat, try offering a treat. If he takes it, repeat this process until he is no longer focused on the cat or door.

Warning Signs

- If at any time the dog lunges toward, growls, snaps at or shows any aggression toward a calm, quiet, still cat, this match will probably not workout.
- If the dog remains overly focused, does not take his eyes off the cat or the door, completely ignores you or lunges suddenly as soon as the cat moves, this is probably a difficult match.
- If the cat is growling, hissing or swatting at a calm dog, give the cat a break and try again on another day. A cat that continually hisses and growls at all types of dogs will likely not want to live with dogs.
- If the cat stops eating, drinking, using the litter box or visiting with family members, he is not happy. You might want to consider finding a better match or contact us to schedule an evaluation or provide further training for the dog.