



Pets Deserve Loving Homes ~ Loving Homes Deserve Pets

Introducing Cats to Other Pets

It is important to introduce your new cat to other family pets slowly. Your current pet may view the newcomer as a threat and acceptance may take time.

The ability of pets to get along together in the same household depends on their individual personalities. As each animal assesses and establishes his place in relation to the other animal(s), there may be a few scuffles. As long as they are supervised and neither animal is in danger of injury, do not interrupt. Do not leave the animals together without supervision until you are certain of their compatibility.

Introducing a Cat to a Dog:

- Keep your dog confined or confine your new cat in his own room with a litter box, food and water until he feels secure in his new home.
- Introduce your pets indoors with your dog on his leash. Do not allow your dog to chase or corner the cat, even out of playfulness or curiosity. Do not tolerate any aggressive behaviour on the part of your dog.
- Your cat may seek a safe retreat up high or in a room away from the dog. Give your cat time to gain confidence and to decide when to face his housemate(s).
- Supervise your pets closely and be patient. Don't leave pets together unsupervised until they've accepted each other. This may take several hours, several days, or even a few weeks.
- Never hold a cat in your arms when introducing him to a dog – you might get badly scratched.
- Many pets become companions. Others simply tolerate each other.

Introducing Cats:

- Leave your cat for a period of time in his carrier when he first arrives in his new home and allow each to sniff out the other cat.
- Temporarily confine your established cat to one room while your new cat familiarizes himself with his new surroundings. Your new cat will show he is settling in when he grooms himself and eats. At that time, he may be ready to meet his new housemates.
- Pick up your new cat and confine him to a quiet room, then allow your established cat to investigate the newcomer's carrier and territory.
- Bring your new cat back into the original area. Do not force the cats to meet and don't interfere unless a fight erupts – toss a blanket over one cat or squirt the cats with a light spray of water to stop a fight.
- Hissing and standoffs are to be expected as one cat enters another's territory or domain.
- Make sure each cat has his own litter box, food and water bowls.

Introducing Cats and Caged Pets:

- Birds, rodents and fish are the natural prey of cats and may become stressed by the mere presence of a cat.
- Protect these animals from harassment by your cat. Keep them in a room that is off limits to your cat.
- Your cat may live harmoniously with other caged animals, especially rabbits. Introduce them as you introduce two cats – let the cat sniff the rabbits cage; hold the cat while the rabbit hops around: introduce them under strict supervision to see what happens. Proceed from there.
- NEVER leave your cat unsupervised with small animals until you are sure your cat will look but not touch. Remember, a cage placed up high or on a shelf may be accessible to an agile cat. Observe your new cat very closely to see how he behaves around smaller animals. Don't take any chances. It could mean life or death for your caged pet.