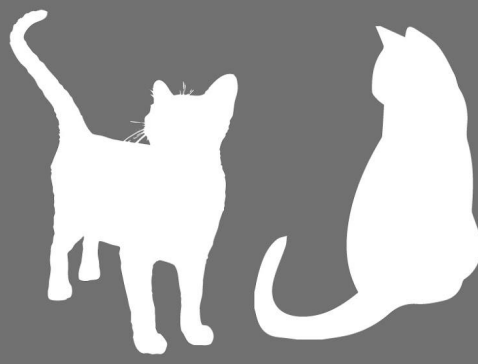


CATS



CAT TO DOG INTRODUCTIONS

Introducing a cat to a dog can be very stressful for both animals, but especially for the cat. To set them up for success you will want to take each step slower than you think you need to and wait until both animals are comfortable before proceeding to the next step. It often takes several weeks to a couple of months to do a proper introduction. We recommend you look at the body language handouts before starting to be able to identify how your animals are feeling each step of the way. Follow the steps below to introduce your new feline friend:

1. If the cat is new to the household, set them up in one room with all their necessities. Let them get used to that area and wait until they are walking around confidently before proceeding to the next step.
2. Swap the blankets so that the dog gets a blanket the cat has laid on and vice versa.
3. Put your dog in a room out of sight and let your cat explore another room your dog has been in.
4. Feed them on opposite sides of a closed door. Preferably something they really enjoy like wet food and a few treats.
5. Leash the dog and keep them in sight of the door but down the hall a ways. Have another person open the door so the cat can see the dog and feed both the cat and dog their favorite treats. Keep this visual short and close the door after a few seconds of treat giving. After the doors are shut, think about how both animals' body language was. Were they scared, friendly, or even did they look like they might want to prey on the new animal.
6. If all body language from both animals is friendly, allow the cat to approach the dog at their own pace. Make sure to always closely supervise them and separate them if you need to leave the house. Again, keep interactions short at first and gradually increase them. When you have seen several positive interactions, you can drop the leash.

7. Continue to monitor their interactions and separate the animals when you are not home
8. Don't leave them home alone together until you have monitored them for several months and feel comfortable doing so. Some dogs and cats may never be able to be left alone safely. Especially if there is a large size difference the consequences can be severe if there is a problem and you are not there to intervene.