

# A guide for INTRODUCING YOUR NEW CAT



## QUICK TIPS

*Give your cat time, choice, and safe options so they can explore and adjust at their own pace.*

## Create a Safe Space

**Give your cat a quiet “Safe Room” (or two!) to relax and feel secure.**

- Include food, water, litterbox, cozy bedding, toys, and tall perches they can retreat to.
- Use baby gates, cat doors, or cleared shelves to create escape routes that others can't reach.

## Let Your Cat Lead

**Cats feel safest when they can explore at their own pace.**

- Don't hold them in place, cage them with another pet, or block their exits.
- Watch for stress signs like hiding, hissing, swatting, flattened ears, or tail flicking.

## Scent Before Sight

**Before any face-to-face meetings:**

- Swap bedding, toys, or blankets between pets.
- Let them sniff and get used to each other's scent first.

## Dogs & Cats – First Meetings

- Start with the dog on leash.
- If calm, drop the leash so it drags—step on it if chasing starts.
- Praise and reward the dog for polite, gentle behavior.
- Stop any chasing and redirect to toys or other activities.
- Increase off-leash, supervised time as both relax.

## Introducing to Another Cat

- Begin in separate rooms and swap scents daily.
- Try short visits through a cracked door or baby gate.
- Increase time together slowly if both remain calm.

## Meeting People & Children

- Let the cat come to them.
- Encourage kids to be gentle, quiet, and calm.
- Reward relaxed interactions with treats.

## Monitor Progress

- In the first few weeks, note if interactions are improving, staying the same, or worsening.
- Adjust pace as needed—there's no set timeline!

## Keep It Positive

- Give your current pets extra love so they don't feel left out.
- Help all animals associate each other with good things like treats, play, and affection.
- Keep dogs away from litterboxes—cats need privacy, and it keeps everyone healthy.

