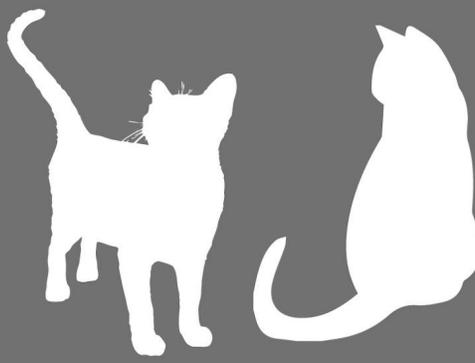


CATS



CAT TO MULTIPLE CAT INTRODUCTIONS

Introducing a cat to a cat can be very stressful for everyone involved. 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 cats are feeling each step of the way. You will want to do all of the following steps with one of your cats first and then once that cat and the new cat are friends introduce the next cat.

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 resident cat gets a blanket the new cat has laid on and vice versa.
3. Put your resident cat in a room out of sight and let your new cat explore another room.
4. Feed them on opposite sides of a closed door. Preferably something they really enjoy like wet food and a few treats.
5. Now we will let them meet in a controlled, small fashion. If you have a baby gate, setting that up in the door and letting the cats see each other while feeding both the cats 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, aggressive, or friendly?
 - a. If you don't have a baby gate, propping the door open just an inch or two can work as well.

6. If all body language from both animals is friendly, allow the cats to approach each other 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.
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.

HELPFUL TIPS

- Put scratching posts in doorways and hallways once the cats are getting more freedom together. This will allow them to take out their stress of passing a new cat on their cat scratcher.
 - It can also be helpful to have different heights so the cats can space themselves out