



DOG-CAT INTRODUCTION

TTU ANIMAL BEHAVIOR CLINIC

Prepare for introduction:

When bringing a new cat home to meet your resident animals, it is very important to go slow and introduce them to each other on their own terms. For both animals this can be a stressful time. A gradual introduction process is important for them to build a relationship and to reduce any negative encounters that may hinder the process.

Prepare by creating space for new animal that's closed off from the other.

Gradual interactions

Start feeding and playing near each other but without any physical contact (use physical barrier - baby gate, transparent door).

Over time, reduce restraints and allow them to interact with each other with less control from the people. Watch for body language. After weeks of successful interactions, allow unsupervised time together between the pets.

Check out these helpful resources!



Introducing scents and spaces

- Start by swapping items with each animal's scent (blankets, toys) to let them get familiar with each other's smell.
- Slowly introduce the new cat to common areas, and allow your resident animal to explore the new cat's space without physical interaction.
- Pair these exposures with high-value treats.

Important things to remember:

- Never force interactions between the animals; allow them to go at their own pace and watch their behavior.
- Reward positive experience with high-value treats so ensure learning.
- Do not reprimand behavior; separate and reintroduce them at a later time (may have to go a step back in the introduction process).

CONTACT US!



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