



## **Introducing Your New Cat To Your Pets At Home**

Introducing a newly adopted cat to your resident pets requires patience and a gradual process to ensure a smooth transition for everyone involved. Here's how to do a slow introduction:

### **Step 1: Create a Safe Space for Your New Cat**

- Set up a safe space - separate room with a door that closes and provide essentials like food, water, a litter box, scratching posts, and toys.
- Allow your new cat to adjust to their surroundings and get comfortable in their safe space before meeting the other animals.

### **Step 2: Exchange Scents**

- Rub a clean cloth on each pet and swap the scents by placing the cloth in the other animal's area.
- Let them sniff the cloth and associate the scent with something positive, like treats or playtime.

### **Step 3: Allow Visual Introduction**

- Use a baby gate or slightly open the door of the safe room to let the animals see each other without direct contact.
- Observe their body language. Signs of curiosity (like sniffing or gentle interest) are good, while hissing or growling suggests they need more time.

### **Step 4: Gradual Supervised Meetings**

- Once the animals seem comfortable with each other's presence, allow brief, supervised interactions.
- Keep the new cat in a carrier or use a leash/harness for controlled interactions initially.

### **Step 5: Increase Interaction Time**

- Gradually increase the time they spend together, always supervising to ensure no aggressive behavior occurs.
- Provide plenty of distractions like toys or treats to make the interaction positive.

### **Step 6: Monitor and Be Patient**

- Some animals bond quickly, while others may need weeks or even months. Respect their pace and provide plenty of attention to your resident pets to prevent jealousy.

### **Tips for Specific Animals:**

- **Cats:** Cats are territorial and may take longer to adjust. Ensure both have escape routes during introductions.
- **Dogs:** Keep dogs on a leash during introductions and reward calm behavior. Teach the dog to be gentle and respectful of the cat's space.
- **Other Animals:** Supervise interactions and create safe spaces where your new cat can retreat if needed.

If tensions persist or aggressive behavior escalates, consider consulting an animal behaviorist for guidance.