



# Introducing two cats

Cats can and do get along with each other - but it can take time for a pet cat to welcome a new feline into the home. Follow these guidelines to make the introduction easier on both cats and you.

## FOR THE FIRST WEEK:

- Separate the cats at first.
- Feed the cats and/or give extra tasty treats near the door that separates them.
- Rub the cats with towels and then swap them to each other's area.
- Encourage them to paw at toys at the door—pretty soon they will play “paws” with each other.
- Place the newer cat in a carrier or crate and open the door to the room so that the cats can see each other but not yet have direct access to each other. Baby gates are perfect for this step.

## IF THE TWO CATS ARE NOT HISSING AND GROWLING...

- Permit the cats to spend limited, supervised time with each other at a time when they are likely to be calm such as after feeding time or after an active play session.
- Begin to lengthen the time they are together and always supervise.
- Remember to provide as many litter boxes as there are cats (plus one extra), low places where they can hide, and high perches where they can get away.
- Each cat should have its own food and water bowls and place them out in the open so they do not feel trapped against a wall or corner.
- Your cats may become fast friends or they may only live along side each other. Either way, you have provided a loving home for these deserving felines.

# Introducing a dog & cat

- Make sure the cat has access to a dog-free sanctuary at all times.
- Keep the pets separate at first.
- Feed them on opposite sides of a closed door. Have them switch rooms.
- Make sure your dog responds to basic commands.
- Begin face-to-face meetings.
- Repeat sessions daily.
- Allow pets loose together.
- Proceed with caution and don't allow them to be alone unsupervised until you are certain of their safety.



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