## INTRODUCING DOGS TO CATS

Tips for your new friends!

### MAINTAIN CONTROL

Even if you think things are going to go well, keep a leash attached to your dog just in case of emergencies.





### TAKE IT SLOW

At first, only allow your dog to observe the cat, not approach. If the cat approaches on their own, you may allow a brief interaction. Distract the dog with a treat to allow the cat to investigate!

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### OBSERVE

Watch the body language of both animals. A cat that is hissing with their ears pinned is going to need slower introductions. A dog that is too focused on the cat could



indicate a bad match.



### SPREAD IT OUT

Short interactions over multiple days can help both animals feel more comfortable. A rushed introduction may give undesired results.

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### KEEP 'EM SEPARATED

Never leave your animals together unattended until you are positive that they are accustomed to one another.





# DOG/DOG, CAT/CAT INTRODUCTIONS

### **KEEP THINGS CALM**

While the animals may be the ones meeting, it is important that <u>you</u> remain calm! If you're anxious, they're anxious.





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### SMELLS FIRST

For cats especially, being introduced to their new friend's smell can help their face-to-face meet go smoother. Let them sniff each other under a door, or give the new cat your cat's favorite bed.

### OBSERVE

Watch the body language of all animals involved. A stiff body means the animal is uncomfortable, and you may want to go back a few steps in your introduction process.





### **NEUTRAL GROUND**

A neutral space with no high-value items (such as toys, food, etc.) will be the best place for a successful introduction.

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### KEEP 'EM SEPARATED

Never leave your animals together unattended until you are positive that they are accustomed to one another. Utilize crates or separate rooms.



