

## HOW TO INTRODUCE YOUR NEW CAT TO YOUR RESIDENT CAT

Cats, unlike dogs, are solitary animals. Cats in the wild possess their own territory which they protect from other cats that will potentially hunt their prey and use their resources. So it's only natural that your resident cat would be wary of a newcomer entering their territory. Here are some easy steps to introducing your new cat to your resident cat successfully.

### Days 1-5

- Keep your new cat in a quiet, separate room equipped with food, water, litterbox, bedding, and toys.
- Feed new and resident cat on either side of newcomer's door so that they associate something positive—eating—with each other's presence.
- After a few days, prop the door open just enough to allow the cats to see each other while eating.
- Switch bedding between newcomer and resident cat to allow them to investigate each other's scent.

### Days 6-9

- When the new cat is eating and using the litterbox regularly, let him/her explore the house while your resident cat is confined to the newcomer's room. This "territory switch" lets the cats get familiar with each other's scent without meeting face to face.

### Days 9-11

- Put the new cat in a carrier, in its room, and allow the resident cat and newcomer to sniff each other through the carrier door. Allow them to do this for five minutes at a time.

### Days 12-14

- Allow both cats to roam freely
- Supervise to break up any incidents
- Mild hissing, spitting, and growling is normal
- If a fight breaks out, DO NOT interfere. Throw a towel over each cat, pick them up, and separate them.

**Generally cats will learn to tolerate each other's presence. Contact a professional animal behavior specialist if problems continue.**