

Introducing Dogs to Cats

The introduction process

➤ **Step one: Separate the animals**

- Across a few days, rotate which animal has freedom and which is confined so both can have plenty of time to investigate each other's scent
- Crate the dog or confine him/her to a room- if the dog excessively digs at the separation barrier or barks at the cat for more than a day or two, the introduction most likely will not work without proper training
- When no one is home, the dog or cat must be securely confined so unsupervised interactions are not possible
- Once the dog and cat are calm, and the cat is eating and using the litterbox normally, then you can move to the next step

➤ **Step two: Make leashed introductions**

- Allow both animals to be in the same room at the same time, but keep the dog securely leashed
- Continue with this introduction until the dog is calm and ignores the cat, and the cat is calm, eating, and using the litterbox normally.
- If there's any fear or aggression displayed on either animal's part, stay at step two a little longer
- Continue indefinitely until dog and cat seem happy and relaxed around each other.
- When no one is home, the dog and cat should be securely confined to separate areas so unsupervised interactions are not possible

➤ **Step three: Allow unsupervised interactions**

- Unsupervised time together can occur after the cat and dog have been supervised around each other for a significant period of time (a month or so) and you are positive they will not hurt each other.