



Introducing cats slowly will help prevent aggressive or fearful behavior before it can begin.

Preparations for Introducing a New Cat:

Set the new cat up in a separate room with litter box, bed, food and water, toys, etc.

Allow the new cat time to adjust to this space.

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Bringing Home a New Cat

To Live With an Existing Cat

Step One:

Approximately two weeks

Keep the door to the room closed so the cats can smell and hear each other, but cannot touch or see each other.

Make sure to spend some time with the new cat in the room, sitting and playing with it.

Gradually move the food bowls closer to the door until they are eating next to the door.

Give both cats treats near the door, trying to get them as close to the door (and each other) as possible.

Switch the cats occasionally, putting the new cat in the house, and the other cat in the new cat's room with the new cat's belongings.

Only introduce the new cat to one or two rooms in the house at a time, limiting the new cat's exposure to short periods of time.

Rub one cat with a towel and then rub the other cat with the same towel to get them used to each other's scent.

Switch their bedding after each cat has slept on it. Give the new cat the other cat's bed and vice versa.

Step Two:

Letting them see each other

Use two doorstops, one on each side of the door, to allow the cats to see each other, but not squeeze through the opening. (A 2 or 3 inch gap).

You can also place two baby gates blocking the doorway, putting them one above the other.

During this period, you can tie two cat toys together, placing one on either side of the door, and let them play together from opposite sides of the door.

If you see any negative reactions such as hissing, growling or swatting, close the door and try again another day.



Step Three:

Bringing the cats together

Bring the cats together when they are calm. After a meal or a strenuous session of play is a good time for introduction.

Watch for aggressive behavior like growling, spitting, crouching or ears pinned back against the head. If you see this behavior, try throwing a pillow near the cats (do not hit cats with pillow). You can also use a loud noise to startle them such as clapping your hands or yelling, or using a spray bottle with water to squirt the cats. Separate the cats if necessary by gently herding them (do not use your body) into separate parts of the house. Cookie sheets work well, don't stick your hands or feet between fighting animals.

The goal is to intervene before they have a negative interaction.

If unsuccessful, try again another day.

Note: Similar introduction methods should be used when introducing your new cat to your pre-existing dog, but always keep the dog on leash.