

## Preparations for Introducing a New Cat

Prepare a small, quiet room with a litter box, bedding, food, water, and toys as explained in the *Bringing Your New Cat Home* brochure.

Allow your new cat ample time to adjust to this space before introducing him/her to your existing cat.

***Introducing cats slowly will help to prevent aggressive or fearful behaviors before they can begin.***

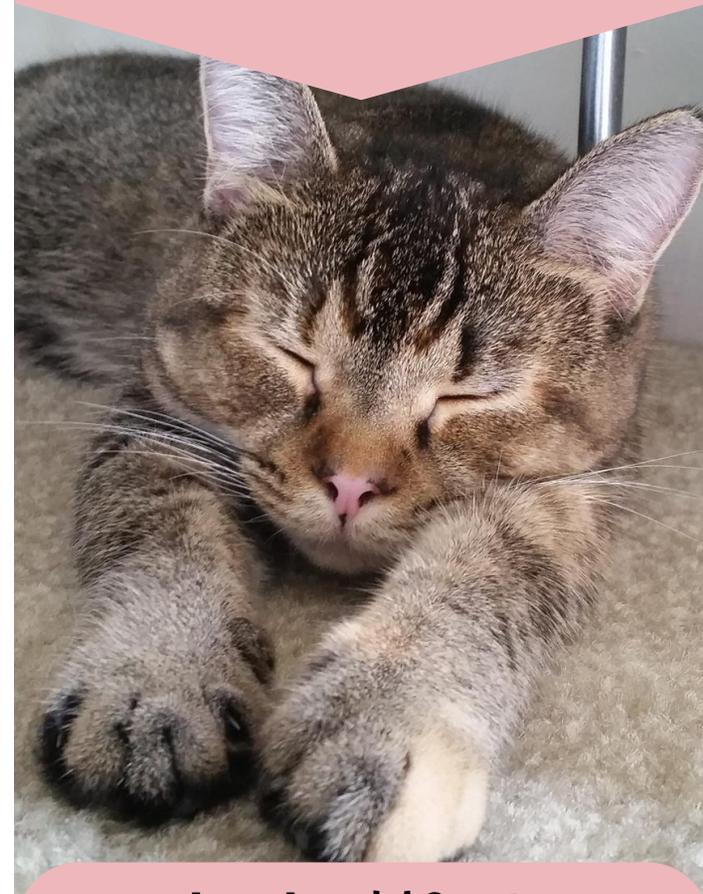


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Be a responsible pet owner



411 Maxwell Frye Road  
Millersville, MD 21108  
410-222-8900  
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## Bringing a New Cat Home to Live With an Existing Cat



**Anne Arundel County  
Animal Care & Control**

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## Step One: Introduce By Smell

### *Approximately two weeks after adoption*

- Keep the door to the room closed so that the cats can smell and hear each other, but cannot touch or see each other
- Spend time with the new cat in the room, sitting and playing with him/her
- Gradually move food bowls close to the door until they are eating next to it
- 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

## Step Two: Introduce by Sight

### **Method One:**

Use two doorstops, one of each side of the door, to allow the cat to see each other, but not squeeze through the opening .

### **Method Two:**

Place two baby gates, one above the other, to block the doorway.

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

*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. A good time for introductions may be after a meal or a strenuous play session.

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 the cats with the pillow)
- Use a loud noise, such as clapping your hands or yelling, to startle them
- Squirt the cats with a spray bottle of water

Separate the cats if necessary by gently herding them into separate parts of the house. Do not use your body, cookie sheets work well to separate fighting animals.

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

If unsuccessful, try the same tactics another day.

**Note:** Similar methods should be used when introducing your new cats to your pre-existing dog. However, always keep your dog on a leash.