



cat adoption team

Introducing a Cat to a Dog

- First, as a precaution, prepare a safe room and have a clear escape route set for your new cat. **Make sure the dog does not have access to the cat's food and water and especially the litter box!** Use a baby gate to block the dog's access.
- When introducing your new cat to a dog, put the cat on a raised surface like a table or dresser. This will help the cat feel less threatened. Put your dog on a leash. Allow them to sniff each other (try to keep the leash loose) and then distract the dog with a treat or praise. With a flat collar on the dog, you can let him drag the leash around the house so you can grab it if necessary. It is normal for a cat to hiss and growl at first, especially if he/she has not lived with a dog before.
- Please do not leave them together unsupervised.
- **Cats take time to adjust to changes;** the more the animals are together in the same room (with your supervision), the more quickly they'll adjust.
- Arm yourself with a squirt gun/spray bottle and spray them with water if they start to fight. You can also throw a towel over the cat if he attacks the dog. Make sure your cat has an escape route or can leap to a high place. Do not let the dog corner the cat or vice versa.
- Separate them, when you are not there to supervise, until you are all comfortable with the situation.
- **If your cat hides, don't worry.** Keep the dog around as much as possible so your cat can get used to the dog's presence. Make sure your cat has a private place, not accessible to the dog, where he/her can eat and drink in peace and feel safe. Ensure your cat has unthreatened access to his/her litter box.
- **Allow the pets to adjust in their own time** - be patient and act calm and relaxed. Often they become friends; sometimes they just tolerate each other. Either way you should respect the arrangement.