

# Cat-Cat Re/Integration

## Stages for Increasing Exposure

### Stage 1: Total Separation

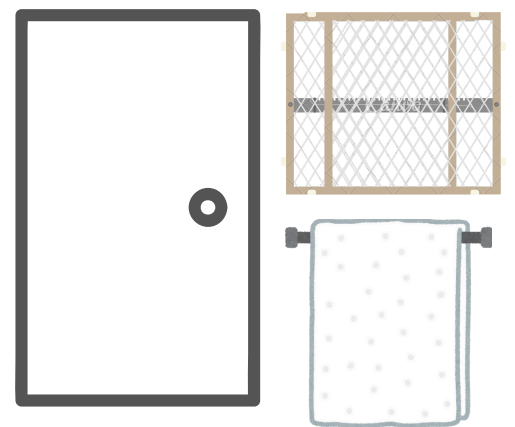
Solid door is closed between cats so they cannot see each other. Draft stoppers under door gaps can help reduce paw reaches.

- This is a great time to work on setting up a cat proof gate with a curtain to prevent them seeing each other later
- Also a great time for “Getting Started” ET and/or stress reduction, etc.
- **Benchmark to advance:** No hissing, staring, camping out, avoiding, hiding, etc.

### Stage 2: Start General Exposure

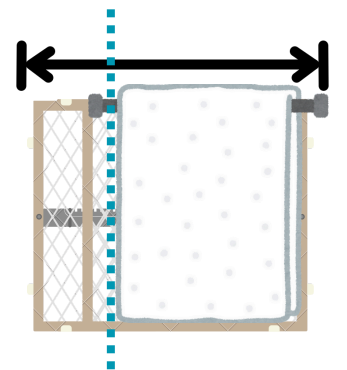
Solid door + a cat-proof gate are both in place.

- Door remains closed at all times, **except** during training sessions (ET) (~5mins)
- Fully open door during ET (but covered gate stays in place). Close door after ET.
- **Benchmark to advance:** Able to disengage.



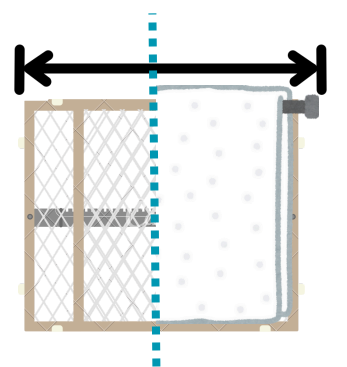
### Stage 3: Begin Visual Exposure

- Door is open at all times from now on.
- Covered gate is in place.
- During ET only, open curtain 1/4 of the way. Close curtain after ET
- **Benchmark to advance:** Able to disengage.



### Stages 4 - 6: Increase Visual Exposure

- **Stage 4:** Same process as Stage 3, but open curtain 1/2 way during ET. Return curtain to 1/4 open for the rest of the time.
- **Stage 5:** Same process as Stage 4, but open curtain 3/4 way during ET. Return curtain to 1/2 open for the rest of the time.
- **Stage 6:** Same process as Stage 5, but fully open curtain during ET. Return curtain to 3/4 open for the rest of the time.



#### Tip

- Have a peice of cardboard or other visual block handy to slide between cat and gate in case of staring, getting too close to gate, reaching through, hiss or growl, etc.
- If this occurs: no more training for the day & go backward 1 step next time.

# Cat-Cat Re/Integration

## Exposure Training (ET) Skills

### Getting Started

- Stage 1 of exposure is ideal for this
- ID cat's preferred reward (food, play, etc.)
- Pair reward with marker (clicker, pen, etc.)
- **Benchmark:** When cat is not looking at you, click their clicker.
- If cat turns and looks at you in anticipation of the reward, advance to next level
  - If they do not, spend more time pairing reward & clicker or get a better reward

### Look at / Engage

- Stage 2 of exposure is ideal for this
- When door opens, your cat should look toward/acknowledge the trigger on the other side
- **Benchmark:** Click when your cat looks at/toward/acknowledges trigger. When cat easily turns and look sat you in anticipation of their reward, advance to next level.
  - If they do not, move further away, get a better reward, and/or return to level 1

### Get a Pattern

- Continue repeating level 2 until you see a regular pattern of: look at, click, look away, reward, and repeat until it gets easy
- **Benchmark:** When you notice cat looking away from trigger just AS you click, with little to no delay, advance to next level.
  - If they do not, spend more time at this level

### Look Away / Disengage

- As you notice cat anticipating the click, on the next one, withhold the click
- Cat should look at you as if saying "hey! Where's my click!?"
- Click THAT look away and repeat the previous two stwps in this level
- **Benchmark:** When cat purposefully looks AT trigger then at you in a clear pattern and you are clicking for the look away, advance to next level.
  - If they do not, spend more time at this level

### More advanced Trigger

- Repeat & acheive previous skills with the trigger gradually performing the following behaviors (with the gate in between of course)
  - Walking around, playing, running around, jumping on/off obstacles, moving directly toward directly away from, and from left to right