



TIPS FOR

Introducing Cats and Dogs



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KEEP SEPARATE FOR AT LEAST SEVERAL DAYS

- Most pets are stressed & confused in a new home
- Keep them physically and visually separated with gates, crates and doors to allow time to acclimate
- Keep physically and visually separated until both pets are happy and calm in their respective spaces

SIGNS YOU NEED A PRO

- Obsession or fixation toward other pet
- Multiple days of hiding, refusal to eat, or cat not using box
- Aggression or panic
- Trouble or lack of progression

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GENERAL SAFETY TIPS

- Never confine or restrain one pet so the other can investigate them
- Never punish or scold hisses, growls, or swats
- Keep a door closed between pets when you can't supervise (eg: you're out of the house or asleep)
- For extra safety, you may wish to train dogs to wear a basket muzzle
- Sturdy baby gates in doorways between pet spaces can prevent accidental contact
- You may wish to stack multiple gates to deter cats from jumping over

SCENT EXPOSURE

- Give cloth to each pet to rest on for several days
- Place cloth in opposite pet's space to investigate (place in a neutral location not near their favorite resting spot or food dish)

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EXPOSURE TIPS

- Gradually progress across multiple days when opening doors, uncovering gates, and getting closer
- Keep sessions < 10 mins
- Praise and feed pets very high-value treats on their respective sides throughout sessions

AVOIDING COMMON ISSUES

- Reduce agitation at seeing each other through the gate by covering it with a towel or blanket at first and gradually pulling it back across multiple sessions/days
- Reduce dog agitation at seeing cat movement by having cat sit still to eat treats at first, then gradually moving/jumping/running more and more by following flirt toys
- Reduce cat fear by providing multiple vantage points and hide spots at various heights

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