



## Successful tips to introducing a NEW kitten/cat to Your Cat

### Step 1: Preparing you home



Prepare a separate room (eg. bathroom, laundry or bedroom) for the new addition to stay for the **first few days**, equipped with their own water bowl, food bowl, litter tray, toys and bedding. This arrangement is temporary and a short-term measure to ensure a smooth introduction for all pets.

### Step 2: Introducing scent



When you bring your new addition home, keep your existing cat apart in another room, also surrounded them with their favourite things. Bring the new addition into the house, give him/her a quick tour of the main area of the house (close as many doors as possible) to start the process of acclimatization and then settle them into their own room.

Then you should allow the resident cat out of their room (keeping new addition in its room). Let the resident cat smell your hands, covered with the scent of the new addition, and give them treats to comfort him/her and build an association between the new smell and 'good things happening'. Use treats as much as possible as a positive reinforcement.

Gradually introduce the new addition's scent into the household over the first few days, swapping food bowls, blankets and bedding but not all at once. As soon as they are both comfortable with each other's scent, allow them individually to explore the other's territory, whilst still keeping them apart.

Keeping the kitten in a carrier and allowing the resident cat to smell, is another way of introducing one another. This way both parties are safe and will give them time to suss each other out.

### Step 3: Meeting one another



A mealtime is the best time to make the formal introduction, when the desire for food will overcome all other distractions. As they meet for the first time, expect some growling and hissing - this is all a normal part of each cat/kitten figuring each other out and establishing their individual places within the hierarchy. It is suggested to not do this process alone and have a family member or friend available. Also have a blanket at the ready in case a full blown fight breaks out. This is very rare if all other steps have been followed. Preparation, consideration and time is the key to a successful introduction.

### Step 4: Treat them both equally



Gradually increase the time they spend together during mealtimes. Share treats, affection and attention between them equally during their time together, not only to build positive associations but also to demonstrate that there is no favouritism.

Remember, as the 'leader of the pack', it's not your responsibility to adjudicate between them or gauge who needs to be treated as 'top cat' - they will sort this out between themselves quite naturally.

*Everyone loves adding a new family member but it's our responsibility to take a calm approach and follow the steps above to lay the foundations of a respectful partnership between the older and the younger cat.*

#### Related Links:

[https://kb.rspca.org.au/how-should-i-introduce-a-new-cat-or-kitten-to-my-existing-cat\\_254.html](https://kb.rspca.org.au/how-should-i-introduce-a-new-cat-or-kitten-to-my-existing-cat_254.html)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzYtF2FJRcg>

