

♥Tiplings **How to Introduce a New Pet**

To safely introduce cats to existing pets, follow these steps:

1. Allow at least one to two days for your cat to settle in before introducing them to your dog. **Keep them separate during this period.**
2. Set up a safe space for the cat where the dog or other pets are not allowed.
3. Exchange scents between the new cat and existing cat/dog.
4. Conduct supervised, on-leash meetings between the two.
5. Use positive reinforcement during the meetings. (treats, praise, pets)

Detailed Instructions:

Step 1: Give your cat time to settle

Allow **at least one to two days** for your cat to settle in before introducing them to your dog.

This may take longer depending on how confident your cat is.

During this period your cat and existing pets should be kept separate. Keep the cat in one room where your other pets are allowed. Make sure your cat has food, water and a litter tray in the room.

While still keeping your cat and other pets separate, you should make them both aware that there is another animal in the house. Stroke your cat and then let your other pets smell your hand. Also swap blankets or bedding that they sleep on.

Step 2: Relaxed first meeting

The first meeting should be done when both cat and other pets are in a relaxed state.

For Dogs:

Keep your dog's lead on and keep it as slack as possible. This will ensure the cat's safety while allowing the dog some freedom to investigate their new friend. Let your dog sniff and learn about their new housemate. It is quite acceptable for the cat to give them a warning 'swipe' on the nose but be ready to intervene in case the dog retaliates. You should remain calm throughout the introduction.

If things are going well, let them continue to interact. Drop the lead but be ready to take control again. From time to time call your dog to you and reward with a treat whenever they respond. After a few minutes, end the session and have some one-to-one time with your dog while another person makes a fuss of your cat in a separate room.

Step 3: Repeat

This process should be repeated two or three times a day for the first 3 days. And then as needed until there is no reaction from either pet.

With time, your dog and cat will get used to each other and you will gradually be able to let them interact freely.

If you feel that your dog and cat are not getting on, separate them immediately and contact info@tiplings.org for further advice.

Source: <https://www.battersea.org.uk/pet-advice/cat-care-advice/introducing-your-new-cat-your-dog>