

Introduce only in times of
PEACE at home!

Stress = Failure

Theory

- Understand that cats and dogs have different social order. Social place is important for dogs, while physical territory is important for a cat.
- Dogs and cats communicate differently! A raised paw to a cat is a threat, but to a dog it means let's play.
- Don't overreact to hissing, growling, or barking. They are communicating! Step in if it looks hostile.
- Chasing is natural – step in if it looks serious.

C A R A

Companion Animal Rescue Alliance

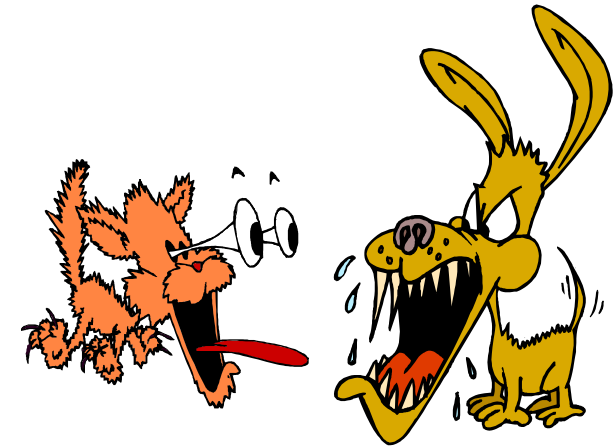
www.cara_adopt.org

For more help, email us at
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How to Introduce

Your

Cat & Dog



How to make friends or at least
live in the same house
successfully

For the Cat

- Keep claws trimmed so if a lashing-out paw strikes, it gives the message without major damage.
- Give kitty places to get away. Tall scratching posts, backs of furniture, doors open just enough for kitty to get through, or cat doors within the house.
- Keep the litter box in a place where only kitty can get to it. This will stop kitty from having litter box problems due to fear of interacting with the dog.

For Both

- Give a lot of time to the animal who was living there first– they now have to share you!
- Separate/confine each animal for short times so one can smell where the first animal was while the other is safely put away.
- Feed in separate areas and give them their own bowls. High places for a cat means safety and Fido can't eat her food!
- Let animals sniff each other! Remember, smells tell them who's who.
- Praise and reinforce good behavior. Give treats to Fido or brush or give cat nip to Fluffy.
- Use baby gates to separate the dog and cat initially and keep the gate up to let kitty have "her own room".
- Separate the cat and dog physically when you are not home. Make sure each has food, water, toys, and litter box!

For the Dog

- Introduce one dog at a time to the cat!
- Use a leash for the first week so chasing is kept minimal while the novelty wears off.
- An obedient dog/puppy is easier and safer to introduce to a new cat. Enroll your dog in class before cat and dog meet!

Important questions to ask for Kitty's safety

1. Is Fido food or toy aggressive ever?
2. Does he chase squirrels, neighborhood cats, kids?
3. Has your dog ever bitten someone?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, a new cat may not be a good idea. Talk to us or your vet for more information.