

Making Introductions Properly

Setting Your Cats Up for Success

We are here to help! If you have concerns with your new pet, please get in touch and we can help you navigate this introductory period.

Proper introductions are key to forming good relationships between your cats, preventing fights, and decreasing stress.

When you bring a rescue home from the BVSPCA, keep in mind that we don't always know their backgrounds or histories

How to Make Proper Introductions:

- Separate your new cat into a room, while letting your other cat retain access to the rest of the home. Allow the cats to smell and paw-touch under the **closed** door.
- After a couple days, allow the new cat to explore the home while your other cat is in a separate room.
- Gradually move feeding bowls closer to the separating door. Transfer sleeping blankets from each cat into one another's living space.
- After a week, allow the cats to meet. They may hiss/growl to establish hierarchy. This is ok. If they fight, calmly return them to their spaces.
- Set up equal access to vertical spaces, hiding areas, food, water, litter and toys in the home.

A Few Other Tips:

- Either cat may hide or avoid each other. Give them time to gain confidence. Do not force an introduction between the cats.
- **Do not leave pets together unsupervised until they have fully accepted each other and you are certain they are safe. This may take weeks or months. It will take TIME.**
- Some pets become companions, while others simply tolerate each other. The ability of pets to get along depends on their individual personalities.

