



TIPS on Introducing a New Puppy or Dog to Your Cat

Introducing your new puppy to your cat doesn't have to be stressful if you follow these steps.

- Keep them separated
- Keep your cat and new puppy separated before introducing them so the current pet doesn't feel threatened and the new pet doesn't get overwhelmed in his new environment.
- "The resident pet should have the run of the house, while the newbie is in their own room, where they have their food, water [and a] soft bed," Mary Molloy, a behavior consultant at [Behavior Vets of NYC](#)
- Let them keep getting used to each other's scents by switching their bedding or towels while they're in separate rooms. They can sniff each other under the closed door, too.
- "Carefully observe the body language of each pet when they encounter the new scent," Molloy said. "Is it positive, negative or neutral? Continue to swap the towels each day until both pets are reacting positively (or, at least, indifferently) to the scent of the other."
- Face-to-face introductions
- Once your cat and puppy are comfortable smelling each other, let them see one another through a baby or pet gate.
- Give them treats so they associate each other with positive things, and if you notice any signs of stress or aggression in either one, stop the interaction.
- Supervised interaction
- If your pets have met without any issues, you can let them out in the open while you supervise.
- "This isn't forced in any way — it's just the two of them sharing a space," Molloy said. "If they choose to interact, that's up to them."
- To have control over the situation, keep your puppy on a leash and make sure your cat has lots of safe places to hide if he wants alone time.
- Eventually, you'll be able to let your puppy and cat spend time together alone.