



Have you just adopted a cat from The Lost Dogs' Home but need some more information? First of all Congratulations! Let's help you introduce your new pet to the family



TIP

Slow and steady wins when it comes to introducing your cat to another cat

Want to learn how to effectively settle in your new cat?

Ask our team about the guide to bringing home your new friend!

HOW DO I INTRODUCE MY NEW ADOPTED CAT TO MY OTHER CAT?

The Lost Dog's Home does not test cats with other animals, so we are unable to say with certainty if any cat is going to get along with another. Even cats that are housed with other cats here will not necessarily get along with your cat at home.

TAKE SLOW AND MEASURED STEPS

1. Place your new cat in a closed room and allow it to explore on its own for a little while (approx. 30 minutes).
2. Place your existing cat on the opposite side of the door to where your new cat is contained.

- ✓ This is best done with one person staying with each cat & using two towels. Rub a towel gently around each cat's face.
- ✓ Exchange the towels and rub it gently around the other cat's face.
- ✓ Exchange the towels again so each cat has their original towel and rub it gently around their face again.
- ✓ Leave the towels with the original cat so that each cat has something with the scent of the other cat and their own scent.

- ✓ Give each cat some food. This encourages them to remain beside the door where the other cat is and enforces the idea that the smell of the other cat is non-threatening.
- ✓ Allow the cats to interact through/ under the door. They will be able to smell each other, hear each other and touch a little bit under the door but will not be able to harm each other.
- ✓ Do not let them interact for longer than five seconds at a time to begin with. A prolonged interaction may illicit a poor response in some cats that do not feel secure enough to remove themselves from the situation.
- ✓ If it appears that either cat is getting too stressed and may compromise the polite interaction, distract them and move them away from the door. Play with them for a little while, give them a treat.
- ✓ Repeat - multiple times in succession & multiple times a day.
- ✓ It is best to intercede before any aggression is shown as any show of aggression can hinder the progress of the interactions.
- ✓ As each interaction improves you can increase the amount of time they spend with each other during each interaction.
- ✓ When you are happy with the interaction of the cats proceed to step 3.

3. Repeat step 2 but this time do it through a wire door - for example a fly screen door with your current cat outside if it is used to being outside

- ✓ If you are concerned about your cat being outside you could try them on a harness and lead so that you still have control of the cat if the situation deteriorates.
- ✓ Interacting through a wire door allows the cats to smell, hear, touch and see each other but does not allow them to harm each other.
- ✓ If you do not have a wire door place the new cat in a carrier and allow your current cat to approach and interact through the carrier.
- ✓ Do NOT force the interaction.
- ✓ After a while of the new cat in the carrier, swap the cats so the new cat is free to approach and interact and your current cat is in the carrier.
- ✓ If any aggression occurs or you feel that the interaction is not going well separate the cats and repeat step 2.
- ✓ When you are happy with the interaction of the cats proceed to step 4.

4. Bring both cats into a room where both have access to separate exits. Place them on the floor (allow at least 3 metres distance between the cats)

- ✓ Allow the cats to approach at their leisure.
- ✓ Intercede if you think the situation is about to deteriorate.
- ✓ If they interact well, allow them to continue for approximately five seconds and then separate them.
- ✓ Allow them to approach again.
- ✓ A prolonged interaction may illicit a poor response in some cats that do not feel secure enough to remove themselves from the situation.

- Allow the cats to leave the room if they wish, even if they have not interacted.
- If they leave the room, the session is over.
- Repeat the session a few times a day.
- Between each session keep the cats separated. This prevents any poor interactions when they are unsupervised.

Not all cats will live happily with another cat. At times the best you can hope for is that they will co-exist in your house without aggression. In order to achieve the best result it is important that your house contain multiple beds, hiding places, levels, litter trays and food and water bowls. This will allow the cats to avoid each other as much as possible, thus reducing the risk of aggressive interactions.

If you have concerns regarding the suitability of a new cat within your family, please call The Lost Dog's Home and discuss the issues with our staff. We would love to help you find a solution to the problem and help your cat settle in happily.



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Since our official opening in 1913, we have been a voice for animals without owners caring for thousands of cats and dogs each year. Pioneers for fair animal laws, we continue to work on the front line to reduce the number of lost, abandoned and stray cats and dogs.

We rely on public support to run services and programs, including: proactive adoption, foster care, behaviour rehabilitation, low cost desexing and microchipping, and the promotion of better pet ownership through education.