



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 pets to each other

Want to learn how to settle your new cat?

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



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

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 a dog.

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 dog on the opposite side of the door to where your new cat is contained.

- ✓ This is best done with one person staying with each animal.
- ✓ Rub a towel over each animal and place it on the opposite side of the door so that each animal has something with the scent of the other.
- ✓ Give each animal some food/treat. This encourages them to remain beside the door where the other animal is and enforces the idea that the smell of the other animal is non-threatening.
- ✓ Allow them 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.

- ✓ If it appears that either 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.
 - ✓ 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 animals that do not feel secure enough to remove themselves from the situation.
 - ✓ Repeat this exercise multiple times in succession. – numerous times a day.
 - ✓ It is best to intervene 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 animals 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.

- ✓ Interacting through a wire door allows them to smell, hear, touch and see each other but does not allow them to harm each other. It may be helpful to place your dog on a lead in order to increase your level of control over a dog that may get overexcited at the prospect of meeting a new animal.
- ✓ When you are happy with the interaction, proceed to step 4.

4. Bring both animals into a room.

- ✓ Dog on lead
- ✓ Cat near an exit

5. Place the cat on the floor at opposite end of the room to the dog. Allow the cat to approach at its leisure.

- ✓ Intervene if you think the situation is about to deteriorate.
- ✓ Take the dog out of the room.
- ✓ If they interact well, allow them to continue for approximately five seconds and then separate them.
- ✓ Allow the cat to approach again.
- ✓ Allow the cat to leave the room if it wishes, even if it has not interacted.
- ✓ If the cat leaves the room, the session is over.
- ✓ Repeat the session a few times a day.

Not all cats will live happily with a dog. 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 areas that the cat can go to get away from the dog, this can easily be achieved with the use of vertical space, such as cat towers, shelves and cupboards. This will allow the cat to avoid the dog 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 the cat settle in happily.



THE
LOST DOGS
HOME

2 Gracie Street
North Melbourne VIC 3051
Phone 03 9329-2755

920 Thompsons Rd
Cranbourne VIC 3977
Phone 03 9702-8055

Web www.dogshome.com
Email info@dogshome.com
Facebook [lostdogshome](https://www.facebook.com/lostdogshome)
Twitter [lostdogshome](https://twitter.com/lostdogshome)
Insta [@lostdogshome](https://www.instagram.com/lostdogshome)

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.