

# INTRODUCING DOGS AND CATS

## PREPARING SEPARATE SPACES

Before you introduce your dog and cat, it's crucial to create separate spaces for each of them. This gives them a sense of security and helps prevent stress during the initial stages of their introduction.

- **Suggestions for Cats**
  - A quiet enclosed room that includes basic necessities (litter box, water, food, etc.)
  - High perches and/or hiding spots such as trees, shelves or hidey huts
- **Suggestions for Dogs**
  - A designated area or room for the dog to stay in. This can be a crate, a playpen, or separate room
  - Comfort items such as a comfy bed and their favorite toys

## SCENT SWAPPING

Animals first become familiar with each other through scent. Scent swapping allows them to adjust to each other's smell prior to meeting face-to-face.

- Swap bedding
- Place the animal's belongings in the other animal's space
- Use a cloth to gently rub both the dog and the cat. Place the scent on the other pet's territory.



## PHYSICAL INTRODUCTION

When officially introducing the dog and cat, do so in a neutral space where neither animal feels territorial. Keep the dog on a leash and utilize a physical barrier such as a baby gate. Make sure the cat has a safe spot (e.g., high perch or hiding place) to retreat to if they feel threatened.



## SLOW IS THE WAY TO GO

- Increase the length of the sessions over time, ensuring each interaction is positive
- Keep the dog on a leash for safety and reward both pets with treats for calm behavior

**PATIENCE AND GRADUAL INTRODUCTIONS ARE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOUR DOG AND CAT.**

