

INTRODUCING CAT TO CAT



Choosing a New Cat:

Cat in the Home (Resident Cat)	New Cat (Potentially Good Options)
Adult female cat that is an "only" cat	Younger female
Young, active male	Male cat
Older neutered male	Male or female kitten
Male cat	Male cat. Unless both are dominant. A dominant cat engages in a lot of rubbing (scent marking), likes to rest in high places and in doorways, and shows little or no fear.

Steps of Introduction: *(This process can take a few days or a few months depending on the personalities of the cats. It usually takes less time when one of the cats is under four months of age)*

- 1) **Choose a quiet time.** Introduce the cats during a quiet time when the household is calm - avoid festivities, parties, visiting relatives or friends. Find time to concentrate on both cats.
- 2) **Let them smell each other before they actually meet.** The new cat should have a room of his own for a few days. Switch the new cat's bedding with that of the resident cat so that they can smell each other before meeting.
- 3) **Rotate rooms.** Let the new cat explore the rest of the house while the resident cat spends some time in the new cat's room.
- 4) **Crack the door of the new cat's room so that they can see each other, but can't push the door open.** Give the cats treats on both sides of the door. Two small toys joined with several inches of string and slipped under the door will encourage them to play.
- 5) **Let the new cat out for a few minutes.** The length of visits can be increased gradually each day. Give special attention to the resident cat. Give the new cat attention only when the resident cat is not around.
- 6) **If at any time the cats become fearful or hostile, return the newcomer to its room and close the door.** Back up to the previous step of the process and move carefully forward again.