



Cat to Cat Introductions

First impressions take the longest to break, so a proper introduction between your resident cat and your new cat is important for their developing relationship. To properly introduce your cats, the process takes about 2 weeks. Depending on the cats and the situation, it may take longer.

- Take the new cat and place him in a small room. A guest bathroom or office would be ideal or a room with no furniture that he can get under. Set the new cat up with his own litter box, bed, food and toys. Go in, visit and play with him but don't allow him and your resident cat to interact.
- With the new cat set up in his new room, allow the resident cat to investigate the carrier you brought the new cat home in.
- Once the new cat is comfortable in his room, take an old sock or wash cloth and wipe both cats down. Then place the resident cat's sock in the new cat's room and the new cat's sock in the resident cat's space. This allows them to get used to each other's scent in their area.
- Then switch cats -- allow the new cat in the house and place the resident cat in the new cat's room. Increase the periods of time over a few days.
- Start feeding the cats on opposite sides of the door so they will associate the other cat's smell with good things (food).
- Exchange their litter. Put a cup of the new cat's litter into the resident cat's box and vice versa. Do this over several days and increase the amount.
- When you are finally ready for a face to face meeting, place the new cat in a carrier and allow the resident cat to sniff him. Have some fishing pole type toys and treats ready. Use the toys to distract as needed and reward with the treats.
- Once sniffing has occurred, allow the new cat out of the carrier. Only intervene if a huge fight breaks out (World War III). Some hissing, growling or swatting may occur as the pack order is determined.
- This process can take days or it may take several weeks. Pheromone products, such as Feliway, may ease introductions.