



## **HOW TO INTRODUCE A NEW DOG TO OTHER RESIDENT DOGS/CATS**

We always advise that our dogs WILL NOT be cat tested and we cannot guarantee how they will react to cats.

### **KEEP PETS SEPARATE AT FIRST**

- Keep pets separate for at least the first 3-4 days.
- Do not overload your new dog with introducing them to every other pet in the home immediately.

### **FEED THEM ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF A CLOSED DOOR**

- The idea is to teach them to associate the presence of the other pet with pleasant things, such as food.
- With each meal, move their bowls a little closer to the closed door.
- Continue the process until each pet can eat calmly right next to the door.

## **TEACH BASIC COMMANDS**

- Start teaching your new dog basic obedience cues, such as 'sit' and 'down'.
- Keep training sessions short, pleasant and rewarding for the new dog.

## **BEGIN FACE TO FACE MEETINGS**

Once your pets can eat their food calmly right next to the door, conduct meet and greets in a common area of the house.

- Don't use either animal's sanctuary area.
- Keep the first few sessions short and calm.
- Keep all dogs on leads and let cats come and go as they wish.
- Do not restrain either pet in your arms, as injury could result if either pet reacts aggressively.
- Ask the dog(s) to sit and reward them with treats for calm behaviour.
- Give your cat treats as well!
- If either pet demonstrates aggression, calmly distract and redirect them.
- Toss a toy for the cat to lure him from the room, or call the dog's name and reward his attention.
- Return the pets to their own areas.

## **REPEAT MEETING SESSIONS DAILY**

- Save your pet's favourite treats for when they are together.

- If a cat attempts to leave the room, allow them to do so, and do not allow the dog to chase them.
- Try to end each session before either pet shows stress or aggression.

### **ALLOW PETS LOOSE TOGETHER**

When the animals appear to be getting along well, allow them loose in the room together.

- Keep dogs' leads attached and on the floor, so that you can step on the lead to prevent them from chasing each other (or a cat) if they get excited.
- If tension erupts, go back to the earlier introduction steps and repeat the process.
- Make sure a cat has access to a dog-proof sanctuary room at all times.

### **PROCEED WITH CAUTION**

Continue to separate the pets when you are not there to supervise.

