

# CAT-TO-CAT INTRODUCTIONS



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## ! Important !

- Keep a consistent schedule.
- Learn your cat's body language.
- Don't rush the process or push your cats.
- Use praise, treats, and play to help build positive associations!
- **Timelines are guidelines, not deadlines!** Go at your cats' pace!

## Helpful Handouts

- Body Language Chart
- Helping Your Cat Overcome Fears & Triggers
- General Cat-to-Cat Introduction Guide\*
  - \*Included in all consultation services, \$25 independently.

### NOTICE

This guide serves as a starting point. It is not a substitute for a behavior consultation if you or your cats need more personalized assistance.

## 1. Safe Room

- Set up a separate room for CAT A (new cat).
- Provide essentials in room (litter box, food, & water).
- Provide enrichment in room (toys, bedding, cat furniture).
- Establish routine (feeding, socializing, and play) with CAT A.
- Allow CAT A to settle in safe room

### Timeline

3-5 Days

## 2. Scent Swap

- Designate a clean sock for CAT A and one for CAT B.
- Place CAT A sock in CAT A's main sleeping area, and CAT B's in CAT B's sleeping area to pick up their scents.
- Take CAT A's sock to CAT B and allow CAT B to investigate scent.
- Do the same with CAT B's sock to CAT A.
- Refresh CAT A's and CAT B's scent to their socks and swap daily.



### Timeline

3-5 Days

### 3. Swapping Spaces

- Close CAT B off into separate space not CAT A's safe room.
- Allow CAT A to explore rest of house on their terms.
- Swap and close CAT A off in separate space not safe room.
- Allow CAT B to explore CAT A's safe room on their terms.
- When swapping spaces is over, CAT A returns to safe room and continues separation.

Timeline

3-5 Days

### 4. Synchronized Snacking

- Do not feed cats for 3 hours.
- Place baby gate on CAT A's safe room door.
- Place two bowls of food or food puzzles several feet apart from either side of baby gate.
- Allow CAT A and CAT B to eat with visual sight contact.
- If neutral or positive reaction slowly decrease the distance of bowls but **don't move closer than 3ft** from each other.



Timeline

5-7 Days

### 5. Supervision

- Once cats can eat in each other's presence without any negative reaction, remove the baby gate.
- See how cats do without the barrier in short time increments supervised.
- Continue supervised sessions, increasing the duration of time as long as cats are comfortable.
- Try unsupervised sessions until you feel comfortable leaving the cats on their own.

Timeline

1-2 Weeks

### What if I'm not getting the results I want?

- Backtrack a step. Sometimes you may have to restart altogether.
- Practice patience.
- Take a break for a few days.
- **Never** let your cats "fight it out" to "figure it out." This will make things worse!
- Refer to the "General Cat-to-Cat Introduction"
- Request a personalized introduction plan specifically for your cats (\*\*\$200 + consultation fee).

