

TIPS FOR INTRODUCING DOGS TO CATS

Introducing dogs and cats in the same household can be challenging, especially when a dog's prey drive is strong. But with patience, consistency, and controlled environments, you can make a successful introduction. Here are some key tips to help your pets develop a healthy relationship.



SEPARATE CRATE TRAINING

Begin by placing the dog and cat in separate crates for 15–30 minutes daily, gradually moving the crates closer together. Correct barking or whining from the dog. This allows both pets to become familiar with each other's scent while reducing excitement or anxiety.

SAFE ZONES

Create a "safe zone" for your cat, like the top of a cat tree or a separate room where the dog can't reach. This gives your cat a place to retreat while allowing you to monitor your dog's behaviour and correct any signs of fixation or aggression.

CORRECT PREY DRIVE

Address any active chasing or fixation by the dog. This prevents the prey drive from escalating. Use commands like "Leave it" or "Sit/Stay" and consistently reinforce calm behaviour when your dog is around the cat.

GRADUAL EXPOSURE

Begin with short, controlled exposures, such as letting the cat explore while the dog is confined or under supervision. Gradually increase the time they are near each other, always with the dog on a leash or under tight control.

LEADERSHIP & TRAINING

Building strong leadership is essential. Train your dog to reliably follow commands like "Sit," "Stay," and "Heel." A calm and obedient dog is less likely to engage in unwanted behaviours around your cat.

MONITOR BODY LANGUAGE

Watch for signs of discomfort or stress in both animals. If your cat is hissing, growling, or arching her back, or if your dog is fixated or overly excited, separate them, and try again later.

NEVER LEAVE UNSUPERVISED

Until both animals are calm and comfortable with each other, never leave them alone unsupervised. Some pet owners will always need to keep them separated when not present, while others may find their pets are fine after a few months.

MUZZLE AS A PRECAUTION

If you have any concerns about the safety of your cat during initial training sessions, consider using a muzzle on your dog until you're confident they can safely interact.

FOOD & RESOURCES

Keep the cat's food bowl and litter box out of the dog's reach to prevent competition or conflict over resources. Also, avoid letting the cat approach the dog when he's eating or chewing a bone.



Success requires patience, consistency, and leadership. Follow these tips to ensure a safe, smooth introduction. Remember, go at your pets' pace, monitor their behaviour, and correct unwanted actions calmly. Always supervise interactions and seek professional advice if you're unsure about any aspect of the process.

BARK BUSTERS HOME DOG TRAINING IS HERE TO HELP!