

Introducing a Second Cat

The secret to whether your cats will get along depends on their introduction to one another. All-too-often I've seen owners just bring a new kitty home, expecting the resident cat to embrace his new friend, only to find their efforts rewarded with a fur-flying battle. Does that mean your kitty is doomed to live life without a feline friend? Certainly not. You just have to do the right introduction. Here are some tips:

- Set up a room to be used as a sanctuary for the new kitty. This way, your resident cat won't feel as if his whole territory has been invaded and the newcomer will have a chance to get his bearings.
- Set up a Feliway Comfort Zone diffuser in the sanctuary room if the newcomer is an adult cat. Place a diffuser in the main part of the house as well for your resident cat. The pheromones in the Comfort Zone will have a calming effect.
- Here's a little trick I do to facilitate introductions - put one clean sock on your hand and gently rub your resident cat around the mouth and then place it in the newcomer's sanctuary room. Take the other clean sock, rub the newcomer gently around the mouth then place that sock in the resident cat's area. This helps them begin to get acquainted with each other's scent.
- Place the resident cat in a separate room so you can now let the newcomer out to investigate the house without the fear of attack. It also lets him deposit his scent around the house.
- Give the cats a reason to like each other. Show them that good things happen in the presence of each other. Feed the cats far apart but within sight of each other. Separate them as soon as the meal is over. Offer treats in the presence of each other. Slowly, over subsequent sessions, decrease the distance between them.

Keep the sessions short and gradually increase their exposure to each other. Try to always end on a positive note.

[For step-by-step help with new cat introductions, check out my book, *Cat vs Cat*. Pam Johnson-Bennett](#)