



INTRODUCING YOUR NEW MUTTVILLE DOG TO **YOUR RESIDENT CAT**

Here are some tips to help ensure a long & happy relationship
between your new mutt & resident cat.

KEEP THEM SEPARATED FOR THE FIRST 72 HOURS

Plan to keep your new dog and resident cat separate for at least a few days. Do not rush introductions otherwise the animals may become overwhelmed. You can separate the dog and cat using a crate, a spare bedroom or section off a portion of your home using baby gates.

MINGLE THEIR SCENTS

Start by intermingling their smells. Pet the dog with a towel and let the cat smell it and vice versa. Keep your dog in one area or space the first day and the cat in another area, then switch spaces on the second day. Repeat for a few days so they can acclimate to each other's smell in each new space.

JOINT MEAL TIME

Feed the dog and cat where they can smell each other but not reach each other, like on each side of a door or baby gate. This will help them to build a positive association between something they love (food) and their new housemate.

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

Reward the dog for positive interaction with a happy, silly voice and treats. Whenever the cat is present the dog should receive lots of high value treats so it can have a positive association with the cat being present.

SAFETY FIRST

Keep the dog on-leash when first meeting the cat so he can't chase and so that you have more control over the interaction. Do not let the dog become fixated on the cat. Use a high-pitched voice and treats to get the dog's attention off the cat and back on you.

STAY AWARE

Be mindful of any guarding behavior over people, food, or other resources. Do not leave the dog and cat alone unsupervised.

LET EVERYONE SETTLE IN

Most dogs and cats can share a home in harmony once they've gradually become accustomed to each other over time.