

# Introducing new pets



Introducing a new pet to your existing pets, can be a challenging time for all involved! Remember that there will be a period of acclimatisation and adjustment for new and existing pets. It is important that early interactions are positive to prevent problems further down the line.

It is also important not to assume that your pet will adjust easily for all new arrivals. Just because they have previously had a harmonious relationship with another pet, doesn't mean this will be the case every time.



## Preparation is key!

- Consider the impact of the new pet on your pet.
- Will there be a change in routine? Start adjusting to the new routine in advance.
- How will their environment be different? Get them used to new objects (e.g., a new dog bed, cat scratching post) that will be present in the home with the new arrival. This process of familiarisation is called habituation.



## Handling the introductions...

- Make sure all introductions are positive as it can be hard to salvage the situation if there is a negative interaction at the beginning.
- Always ensure your pets have the opportunity to retreat to a safe space if they feel overwhelmed.
- Begin with scent introductions. Allow your existing and new pet to smell a blanket or bedding that has the scent of the other pet on it.
- The next step is a visual introduction. Allow your pets to observe each other from a distance initially, such as through a baby gate, so that they don't feel overwhelmed.
- Gradually reduce the distance between your pet and new arrival, allow them to sniff and familiarise themselves with each other.
- When your pets are comfortable, allow them to occupy the same space (with your supervision) for short periods initially and gradually increase the time spent together.



# Support behavioural balance

---

## Take it easy!

One of the most important factors in this whole process is that you handle the situation calmly, without pressuring either of your pets to rush. Take it at their pace and don't show any favouritism. Check out our top tips to help things go smoothly.

---



## Top tips

- Don't force any interaction, if your pet wants to take a break, let them.
- Make sure all introductions are done in a neutral environment.
- Be patient! It can take several weeks for your pet to adjust and sometimes even longer.
- Let your pet dictate the pace - if they are feeling uncomfortable then allow them space.
- Ensure your existing pet still gets good quality time with you so they don't feel neglected.
- Provide separate areas with enough space to allow both pets to have some peace and quiet away from each other.
- Reinforce positive behaviours with high value rewards.
- Use nutraceuticals (Alphazium TT) and/or pheromone products to help keep them calm and relaxed.

**Stressed out, anxious pet?**  
Use **Alphazium TT** as part  
of your management strategy.

Find out more at  
[www.tvn-uk.com/alphaziumtt](http://www.tvn-uk.com/alphaziumtt)  
or speak to your vet