

## Furry Friends Rescue

### Introduction of Animals:

**Dogs and Other Dogs:** Dogs are highly social creatures that often get along with other dogs. In general, however, it is best to select a dog of the opposite sex. Two dogs of the same sex on the same territory may be aggressive with each other. Breed selection is very important. Most breeds, however, get along well in male and female pairs.

**Dogs and Cats:** Dogs and cats are different creatures. Still, both make wonderful pets and can often live together harmoniously. Most cats and dogs learn to tolerate each other, and many become quite good friends. Some will ultimately sleep together and play with each other. They are good companions for each other, particularly if they are alone some of the day.

**New Cat:** If you're bringing a new cat into your **dog's** life, choose an outgoing and confident kitten. A self-assured kitten will be less afraid of his new home and more confident of his new animal companion. An adult cat who has lived with dogs is another good choice. However, if you choose a kitten or adult cat who has never seen dogs, or if you do not know the background of your new feline, do not worry. There are simple but important steps you can take to make the introduction go more smoothly.

**New Dog:** If you're bringing a new dog into your cat's life, choose a easy going dog. A less alpha dog will be more accepting of smaller furry animals. With the right training, most dogs will adjust to your cat as another family member.

#### New Cat:

- Prepare a room where your new cat can live for a few weeks. If you confine your cat to one room with a litter box, food, water, and a bed, you will give him an opportunity to safely become familiar with your home. Leave a radio on for background noise.
- Spend as much time with your new cat as possible. If he is hiding, do not try to drag him out. Allow him to take as much time as he needs to come out and greet you. Sometimes it takes a few days or even longer for even the sweetest cat to feel safe enough to come out from his hiding place.
- In the meantime, take a towel that your dog has slept on and put it in the cat's room. And take something that the cat has slept on and put it near your dog. This will familiarize the pets with each other.
- When your new cat seems happy and secure in his room, put him in a fiberglass **cat carrier** and bring him into a room with the dog, who is tied or on leash. Do not allow the dog to charge the cat kennel. Let them observe each other in a safe manner. Speak in a calm and happy tone to give both animals positive reassurance of their introduction.
- When both the dog and cat calm down. Give each of them a treat in front of each other so they will understand that both are family members.
- Tip: You should also put "Vanilla Extract" on the cat's and dog's head so they will smell similar. This also works when introducing dogs or cats.
- After you do this a few times, start leaving the cat room door open and allow him to begin to investigate his new home. Do this only when the dog is outside or secured in a crate or on a tie down. Be sure that your cat cannot get to the dog's food dish. Be certain that your dog cannot chase the cat. This phase can take a few weeks. The more patient you are, the better friends your pets will become.
- Once this phase is going smoothly, put your dog on leash and carefully take her to greet your cat. Eventually, your cat and dog will become good friends.

**Dogs and Small Pets:** If you have other pets in your home, such as hamsters, rabbits, rats, birds, and so on, keep them safely separated from your dog. No matter how sweet your dog or puppy is, she is first and foremost a dog. Some dogs do not tolerate little creatures. They chase them and try to catch them. Never let the other pets out of their cages if the dog is in the room or can push its way into the room.

