**INTRODUCING YOUR NEW CAT OR KITTEN TO YOUR EXISTING CAT**

Introducing your new cat to your existing cat may seem daunting but done thoughtfully and with patience, it can be achieved!

Cats are territorial animals and need to be **introduced** to other animals **very slowly**. They need time in order to get used to each other’s scent before a face-to-face meeting. Slow introductions also help prevent fear and aggression problems from developing.

* Allow your new cat to become accustomed to their own safe space before introducing them to the rest of the house and any other animals. This safe space will need to be kept separate from your original cat. Their own litter box, food and water supply and scratching post are vital to giving your new cat their own territory without taking away from your existing cat.
* Feed them on opposite sides of the door and reward them for any calm behaviour with a favourite treat or toy.
* Brush them with the same brush and allow each cat to sniff the brush – a great tool in integrating their scents. You can also use socks to pet your cat; try and get them to kiss the sock as cats’ have pheromones in their cheeks, allowing the new cat to smell this and rewarding her (and vice versa) is a great tool.
* Before allowing your new cat to explore, purchase a mesh barrier from a hardware store – or any barrier that will keep the new cat in while keeping the existing cat out yet allows them to see and sniff each other; again feed them (on opposite sides of the door) and reward with their favourite food and toys.
* Once your animals appear comfortable with that, slowly allow the new cat or kitten to have access to other areas of the home.
* Use a toy such as the “Flying Bird Toy” to play with them together – if they are able to play together and eventually eat next to each other, you’re know you’re on the right track.

**Please be aware, though we do have some experience introducing new cats and kittens to other cats, we are not trained behaviourists. Be sure to read the below resources for a higher chance of successful introduction. If you are at all concerned please contact your local veterinarian for advice.**

**Sources and Useful Websites:**
<http://bestfriends.org/resources/introducing-new-cat>
https://www.petfinder.com/cats/bringing-a-cat-home/cat-to-cat-introductions/
http://www.catbehaviorassociates.com/how-to-introduce-a-second-cat/
http://blog.spiritessences.com/mojos-mailbag/2015/7/14/cat-to-cat-introductions
http://www.fourpaws.org/pages/adopting\_pages/introducing\_cats.html