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BEYOND THE SHELTER / TAKE-HOME RECAP

Dog and Cat Introduction Cheat Sheet



THE SHORT ANSWER

Introducing a new dog to a cat works best in 5 stages: separate rooms, scent swapping, gate sightings, leashed sessions and supervised free time. Each stage of a dog and cat introduction lasts until both animals stay relaxed, which takes days for some pairs and months for others.

FOUR THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. Before pickup day: a cat-only room with litter box, food, water and a hiding spot, a baby gate and high perches in every room.
2. Go through 5 stages: scent swap, meals at the door, gate sightings, leashed sessions, then supervised free time.
3. Usually okay: glances then looks away, takes treats, answers his name. Warning signs: a fixed stare, ignoring food, lunging when the cat runs.
4. If there's a chase, step on the house line, lead the dog to another room, skip the yelling and go back 1 stage.

YOUR NEXT STEP

Slow is the shortcut. A dog who has hurt a cat before needs a cat-free home.

Read the full article and sources:

https://letthembedog.com/blog/introducing-dog-to-cat

Independent volunteer resource. Not veterinary advice. Contact your vet for health concerns.