



generosity breeds joy.

Introducing Dogs and Cats

Dogs and Cats should be monitored while introducing them and should not be left alone while meeting each other. Introduce them slowly over a couple of weeks.

- **Go slow!** Never force animals to meet. Your cat may hiss or show that she is upset and that's okay. Take your time to help everyone adjust.
- **If you have a cat at home, place your cat in a comfy out-of-the-way area with the door closed.** Then allow your dog to sniff around. After a few minutes take your dog outside and let the cat back into the home to sniff and explore. After several days of this allow the dog to see the cat through a baby gate or other kind of barrier. Watch their body language and try to sense what the animals are feeling, eventually removing the barrier.
- **Dogs and cats can also be introduced while they are being fed treats.** Using [the "Look at That" method](#) and with the help of a buddy, feed the cat and the dog really high-value treats while they look at each other. You can always keep it short and build up time together.
- **Keep cat food and litter out of reach for the dog.** Some people like to place their cat litter up high for this reason.

Dogs and cats can live in harmony together with planning and patience. Remember, you are your pets' advocate and JHS is here to help. For additional support, call 904.394.4586 or email behavior@jaxhumane.org.