VOKRA

VANCOUVER ORPHAN KITTEN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

Introducing Your New Cat to Other Pets

Introducing a new cat to your resident pets takes time and patience. Moving too quickly can lead to fear or aggression. Follow these steps to give everyone the best chance to become friends—or at least peaceful housemates.

1. Start with Confinement

- Give your new cat a medium-sized room with litter box, food, water, and a bed.
- Feed all pets on opposite sides of the closed door so they associate each other's scent with something positive—mealtime.
- Gradually move the dishes closer to the door as they stay calm.

2. Swap Scents

- Exchange bedding or blankets between the newcomer and resident pets.
- Rub a towel on one animal and place it near the other's food dish.
- This helps everyone get used to each other's smell before meeting.

3. Switch Spaces

- When the new cat is eating and using the litter box reliably, let her explore the house while resident pets are confined to her room.
- This lets her learn the territory and spreads scent without a face-to-face meeting.

4. Controlled Introductions

- Prop the door open a crack with a doorstop so pets can see each other while eating.
- Next, arrange short, supervised visits.
- Gradually increase time together as long as everyone stays relaxed.

5. Watch for Warning Signs

- Mild hissing or growling is normal at first.

- If any pet shows strong fear or aggression, separate them and go back to the previous step.
- Re-introduce in smaller, slower stages.

Tip: A playful signal from one pet can be misunderstood by another. If it's interpreted as aggression, treat it as aggression and separate them.

Patience and gradual introductions help prevent long-term problems and create a peaceful multi-pet household.