



**Good Friends
Animal
Hospital**

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Introducing a New Cat into a Household with Other Cats

When the cat first arrives at his new home, place his traveling cage in a room with the door closed. Leave him in the cage for a few hours so that he may get used to the sounds and smells of his new home.

After a few hours, open the door to the cage. Leave water and a clean litter box in the room. Give the cat some time to explore his new surroundings. Spend some time in the room with the cat but do not force attention on him. If the cat wants affection he will ask for it.

Have the cats greet through a closed door. Let them get use to each other through the closed door for several days.

Rub a towel on one of the cats and present it to the other so that they may get use to each other's smell.

The next step is to introduce them through an open barrier like a large cage or through a screen. Pressure gates stacked on top of each other work well for this. They can gradually be lowered.

Once the barriers are removed feed your cats separately. In preparation for this, it might be necessary to put the cat that is at home now on meals, if he currently has free choice meals.

The process might take days or weeks depending on the personalities of the cats. It is not uncommon for problems to occur when a new cat is introduced to the resident cats. There may be occasional fights and squabbles as well as some litter box problems. It is advisable to provide some additional litter boxes in a variety of locations. If any of the cats are extremely stressed Bach Flower remedies may help.

If problems do occur reintroduction may be necessary.