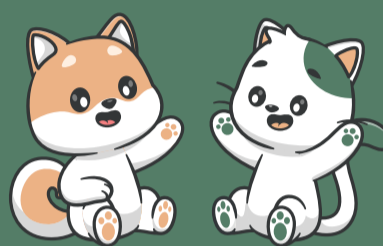**O.A.S** | Oxfordshire Animal Sanctuary

INTRODUCING A NEW CAT TO YOUR HOME

Before deciding to add another cat or kitten to your home, consider whether it's the right choice for your existing cat (or cats). If you suspect your cat is feeling lonely, often, all they need is some playtime and affection from you.
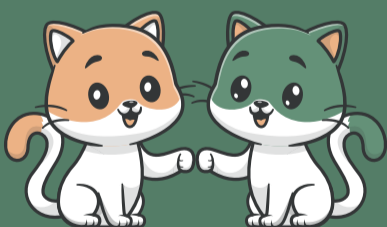
UNDERSTANDING YOUR CAT'S WORLD

- Cats usually like to be alone but can get used to living with others.
  - ✓ Think about your existing cat's personality.
- Consider your existing cat's feelings before getting a new one.
  - ✓ Address your cat's loneliness through play and love.
- Cats might try to control important things like food and water.
  - ✓ Keep an eye on shared resources.
- Some cats share space or live in different areas.
  - ✓ Watch how your cat/s like to live.
- Sickness in a cat can cause problems.
  - ✓ Be aware of health-related conflicts.

ADVICE FOR ALL CAT INTRODUCTIONS

- Make a special room for the new cat.
  - ✓ Put everything the cat needs in there.
- Let the cats get used to each other's smell.
  - ✓ Use scent to help them get to know each other.
- Allow them to see each other with barriers.
  - ✓ Gradually let them get closer without touching.
- Let them meet face-to-face with treats and toys.
  - ✓ Reward them for being nice to each other.

INTRODUCING ADULT CATS

- Think about each cat's personality. Consider their different characters.
- Make sure there's enough for both cats. Give each cat their own food, water, and play resources.
- Take your time and be patient. Let them get used to each other slowly.
- Explore pheromone diffusers for stress
- Consider calming aids.

INTRODUCING A KITTEN TO AN ADULT CAT

- Kittens can be easier to introduce than two adult cats. They are much less threatening to the adult!
- Be careful with barriers. Make sure there are no gaps for kittens to get through to mainain space on first meetings.
- Play with the kitten to tire them out. Help the older cat get some peace.
- Keep the regular routine for the adult cat. Stick to their usual schedule.
- Make separate spaces and resources. Ensure each cat's needs are met.

Please refer to our full introduction guide for more detail.
Speak to the Sanctuary team for information and assistance.