





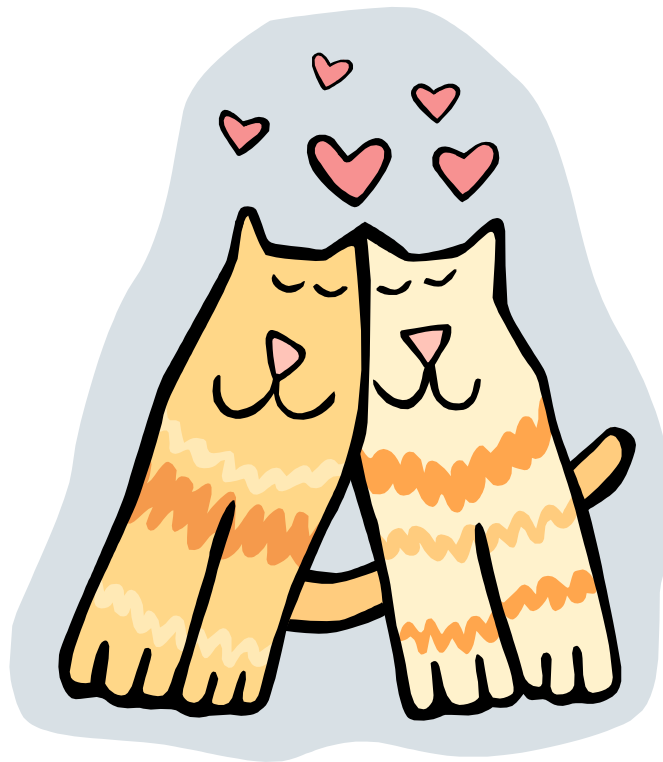
*Research has shown that a single hostile encounter between two unfamiliar cats can set the tone for their relationship for a long time to come. So to prevent your new cat getting off on the wrong foot with your resident cat, introduce them gradually. Generally speaking, it is easier to introduce a kitten to an adult than to introduce two adults. However, adult cats that grew up around other cats usually adjust more easily to a new feline housemate.*

Time and patience are the keys to successfully introducing a new cat into the household. The new cat should have a room of his own for a few days. Exchange the new cat's bedding with that of the resident cat so that they can become acquainted with each other through the all-important sense of smell before they have the opportunity to see each other. Next, rotate rooms. Let the new cat explore the rest of the house while the resident cat spends some time in the new cat's room. When they are relaxed about this step, crack the door of the new



cat's room so that they can see each other, but can't push the door open. Give the cats treats on both sides of the door. Two small toys joined with several inches of string and slipped under the door will encourage parallel play.

When the cats seem comfortable with limited exposure, try feeding them on opposite sides of the same room, returning the new cat to its room when finished. After a few days of common mealtimes, they



may be ready to share the same living space. Let the new cat out for a few minutes, gradually increasing the length of time.

Throughout the introduction process, speak quietly and calmly to the cats. Praise them when they are tolerant of each other's presence. Let them set their own pace and never force them to be together. Never punish or use harsh tones if one of them is intolerant to the other, as they will associate unpleasantness with being near each other. Give special attention to the resident cat as it is this cat's territory that is being invaded, and he is most likely to need the most reassurance. Until they become friends, give the new cat loving attention only when the resident cat is not around.

Keep them separated when you are not home to supervise until you are certain they can tolerate each other's presence. If at any time the cats become fearful or hostile, return the newcomer to its room and close the door. A minor