

Dog and Cat Socialising Tips

See the notes and video below; there is quite a bit of info on you tube which can be helpful. Management is very important so the cat is not scared and the dog or puppy does not get scratched (a scratch to the eye can be quite serious). The information below & video shows gives suggestions and make sure you work on plenty of training to keep your dog calm & perhaps also look at mat or bed training (covered in stage 1). If you are interested in crate training your dog see the dvd called crate games (online) or ask at training for a handout. Rescue remedy may be used to calm the animals by placing it in their water. And training is best done for any animals when they are hungry. Keep it as positive and as calm as possible and if the dog is being totally inappropriate you may use time out for them but remember the aim is to teach them how you want them to behave; not wait and see then tell them off ☺ Training sets ups are best done on lead & with treats etc & when you cannot supervise do keep them separate.

Notes from Malibu Dog Training : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wW82wuZHIXg>

Almost all dogs and cats can co-exist. Young puppies and kittens will adapt much quicker. The first several interactions need to go well for best chance of compatibility.

Putting them face to face is not the right way to introduce them.

A dog social nature allows them to befriend a cat quicker than a cat will befriend a dog. Therefore, have a good control of your dog. Teach your dog 'sit', 'stay', 'come' and 'leave it'. Have your dog tethered (on leash) or in their crate so your cat can explore without getting chased or visa-versa.

Note: For safer instructions, separate in different rooms for several days allowing them to explore the house (separately), getting familiar with each other's smells and seeing each other (at a distance). After a week, this dog and cat can see each other up close without any problems. Similar to the advice given when a new baby arrives, carry cat around so your dog can see the cat is part of the family.

Borrow 'cat friendly' dogs to practice these tips, plus spend a few hours around your kitten/cat.

Use food to create a positive association.

The food should be far apart when first practicing before gradually moving closer. The best way to create a positive association is to use a training clicker (especially, if fear or aggression is showing.)

A click or treat happens every time they look at, walk towards, or are close to each other. **IT TAKES TIME TO ADJUST AND TO LEARN EACH OTHER UNIQUE BODY LANGUAGE.** For one – the different greeting rituals: a straight up or relaxed tail (not wagging) is more of a friendly gesture to a cat. A 'wagging tail' would be interpreted as unfriendly.