



DAACK PACK DOG TRAINING

INNOVATIVE. HUMANE. EVIDENCE-BASED.



Dog/Cat Household Integration

Living in a home with multiple species of animals can take some planning and coordination to get to a harmonious environment. Without that management it can result in a decreased quality of life for all involved. This process may go quickly, or it could take quite a long time. It can take days, weeks, or months. Eventually, it will pay off. You just need a little faith and patience.

Initial First Steps:

- Create a separate spaces with physical barriers where each animal can be safe and secure.
- The most important thing here, is to establish positive association, only, with each other. Every single interaction needs to contain a positive, such as food or play.
- Keep treats easily available - Keeping treat jars or Tupperware containers around the house in case I see a good behavior I want to reward - just in case! It's also a good idea to have a clicker on top of the container so you are well prepared.

Example of some Protocols to start with:

Marker / Clicker Training: Using a clicker or verbal "yes"/"good" (AKA a marker) is a neutral word, noise or signal that you choose to "screenshot" the wanted behavior.

- Clickers are common markers that we will be using in training, their effectiveness comes from the distinct and consistent noise that they make every time that the button is pressed.
- To practice: "click" or verbal marker and then reward should come within 1 second of the mark. Practice a few times a day or feed meals through clicker for a week.
- This will be useful to help capture moments of good behavior for each animal throughout the introductions and integration.

Introductions:

- First, bring your cat, in their carrier, straight to a quiet room away from other pets. Give them a litter box, water, food, and a familiar bed. Open the carrier door but don't force them out or worry if they want to hide for a while.
 - As your cat settles in again, offer them a short play session, treats and attention if they want it or other enrichment like a puzzle toy or an open window.
- 1. With the first introduction, be sure to feed each cat a very special meal such as canned cat food with the door closed and some distance (with dog secured on leash at least 6ft away from the door to be safe with their own enrichment).
- 2. If you notice either animal stopping to look at the door, not eating or avoiding the food or the area then you can increase distance from the door.
- 3. Each snack time feed them in the same spot, if they are comfortable you can scoot the food slightly in small changes.
- 4. Once they can eat on the other side of the door with 1 foot proximity, we can increase back to the starting point but replace the closed door with a baby gate.
 - a. If you don't have a gate, block the area with stacked boxes/bins, lean something tall against the door. However, baby gates are the safest option.
 - b. The dog should stay secured on a leash throughout these steps.
- 5. Feed on either side of the baby gate/screen door. If using a baby gate, cover it with some sort of cloth.
- 6. Begin lifting up the cloth slightly, and observe their reactions. If they are comfortable, get rid of the cloth.
- 7. Get them eating closely on either side of the gate/door calmly, while completely visible to one another.
- 8. Take the gate away for feeding time. Continue to keep the dog still secured on a leash.
- 9. Spend time with the dog and cats out together, but always provide a positive activity, whether it be playtime, cuddles, clicker training, or food.
 - a. Have safety measures like leashes and easy escapes in the early phases on integration.

If you have an questions and would like to learn more about our Training services or local resources, please visit our website and reach out to us.



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