

After a Fight or Vet Visit:

Following a stressful occasion like a fight or temporary separation due to a vet visit it's always good to have a standard protocol to help re-introduce the cats to one another. This can help avoid continued stress and discomfort for both pets and for the rest of the members of the family.

The following is a step by step protocol to re-introduce cats to one another. If you find that you need more guidance, we offer Private Training for both dogs and cats.

Don't forget to talk to your Veterinarian as well, to see if adding in a plan for behavior medications could help this process.



FT. HADES and ZEUS

★ First Steps:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. A half day shut in the guest bedroom gives them time to lick-lick-lick away the weird hospital smell if they came from a vet visit.
4. If they came from the Vet, you can aid in the process by:
 - a. Simply petting, which adds your scent on the cat's fur, if your cat is comfortable with that.
5. Find a blanket or towel that your cats previously laid on and encourage the returning cat to rub on it (maybe sprinkle a little catnip)

★ Things to remember:

- 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.
- 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.
- You can use this same process to introduce new cats together but expect it to be slower!

→ Re-Introduction: Step by step

1. With the first reintroduction, be sure to feed each cat a very special meal such as canned cat food with the door closed and some distance (at least 6ft to be safe).
 - a. If you notice they keep looking at the door, not eating or avoiding the food or the area then you can increase distance.
2. Each snack time feed them in the same spot, if they are comfortable you can scoot the food slightly in small changes.
3. 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.
4. Feed on either side of the baby gate/ screen door. If using a baby gate, cover it with some sort of cloth.
5. Begin lifting up the cloth slightly, and observe their reactions. If they are comfortable, get rid of the cloth.
6. Get them eating closely on either side of the gate/door calmly, while completely visible to one another.
7. Take the gate away for feeding time
8. Spend time with the cats out together, but always provide a positive activity, whether it be playtime, cuddles, clicker training, or food.

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