



Dogs and Cats

Just adopted a dog but already have a resident cat?

Did the album say your new dog is "good with cats"? Let's break it down a little...

How We Test Dogs with Cats at Scooby's Shelter

At **Scooby's Shelter**, our **dogs and cats are housed in separate areas**, but we can test a dog's behaviour around cats **on request**.

Here is how our cat testing process works:

- The dog is brought **on lead** into our cat room.
- We observe their initial reaction to the cats, body language, energy level, focus.
- If the dog remains calm and shows respectful behaviour, we may **let them off lead** while carefully monitoring.
- We record a **video of the interaction**, so you can see how they behave around cats in real time.

Most of our dogs do well in the cat room, but there is an **important** catch.

Our Cats Are Dog Savvy and Confident



The cats in our shelter are used to dogs.

They don't run away, they stand their ground, and if needed, will *tell* a dog off with a hiss or a paw swipe. 🙄🐾

This gives a calm, balanced interaction in most tests.

But not all home cats are like this. 🙄

🐾 Your Cat at Home Might React Differently

Even a "cat friendly" dog might **chase** if your cat:

- Darts away in fear
- Hides or freezes
- Hisses or claws without warning

Dogs are often triggered by movement, chasing a running cat doesn't always mean aggression.

It's often **play drive**, not prey drive, but it can still scare your cat and create tension.

💡 *The key difference?*

Our shelter cats set boundaries. A fearful cat might not, and could end up hiding or stressed for days.

🧩 Wondering How to Introduce Your New Dog to Your Cat?

Here are some **practical steps** to help both pets adjust safely and peacefully:



- Set Up a Safe Space for the Cat

Create a dog free zone with food, water, litter box, and hiding spots. Use baby gates or closed doors. 🚪🐱

- Let Them Get Used to Each Other's Scent

Swap bedding or use a cloth to rub each animal and share their scent 🙌

- First Meetings: Controlled and Calm

Keep your dog on a lead when they see the cat for the first time.

Start with a visual barrier and reward calmness. 🐶

- Read Body Language

⚠️ Watch for signs of stress or fixation.

- Dog: staring, whining, lunging, high energy

- Cat: ears back, tail twitching, growling, hiding

- Let the Cat Set the Pace

Never force interactions. The cat should feel **in control** of how close they get.

🕒 Some Pets Bond in Days, Others Take Months

Be patient. A peaceful home is built on **gradual trust**, not rushing the process.

Some duos will nap together within a week.

Others may live side by side without ever cuddling, and that is OK! ❤️

