

Integrating an Adult Dog with Existing Adult Cat(s)

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1. Walk the dog well before taking him into the house. If your new dog is a male, walk him until he has nothing left with which to mark territory.
2. Put the cat behind a closed door and allow the dog to explore his new domain.
Note: If he's male, watch him carefully, since most male dogs will lift their leg to mark the new territory as his. If you see him start to lift a leg, just say, "No!!" very sharply and clap your hands together loudly. Most house-broken males will stop immediately.
3. When the dog becomes comfortable with his new surroundings (maybe in an hour or two), put him behind closed doors somewhere and let the cat back in. The cat will probably immediately pick up the dog's scent. Watch him and make note of his reactions. Leave him out for an hour or so (or until he seems to ignore the scent).
4. Then put the cat away and let the dog back out again. Rotate the dog and cat back and forth without letting them see each other for several days. (I know this seems like a long process, but remember that you want them to get along for the next 15 years. You don't want to hurt the process by trying to introduce them too quickly.)
5. The next step is to introduce them to each other visually: Put the dog on a short leash held by a member of the family (so he can't jump up). Sit with the dog and restrain him. Have the family member that is most trusted by the cat carry the cat into the room, advancing slowly, petting the cat and talking to him. I wouldn't come any closer than 15 feet to begin with. Be sure not to advance the next step closer until you are sure that the cat is watching the dog and the dog is watching the cat. Do not let the dog jump, bark, whine, or in any way frighten the cat. Do not let the cat become so upset that he goes "puff-tail" or hisses and tries to claw over your back to run away. Don't push too hard; try to end the session on a good note. Put the cat away someplace he feels safe, so that he can unwind. Then let the dog smell you all up.
6. Repeat the session. You can do several sessions like this in a day, but be sure to let the cat unwind between sessions. Remember these very important things: You must always let the cat be a natural cat. However, you must teach the dog that he must respect the cat, not bark at the cat, not fight with the cat, and never, ever chase the cat because the cat is YOUR cat and you will be very angry with him.
7. Once you feel that the cat is a little calmer and that you have better control of the dog's behavior, you can carry the cat with the dog loose. You can

also lower the cat a little to get him closer to the dog for the dog to smell, and you can somewhat extend the cat in your arms to the dog when the dog is confined behind something like a baby gate.

8. Do not leave your dog and cat together unsupervised until you are 300% sure that they have worked out their relationship completely and would treat each other the same way whether you were there or not.
9. Call me for advice anytime, but I feel that if you just move at the cat's rate and take it slow, it will work out fine.