

Jealousy – Bringing home a second pet

Deciding to love and care for a pet is a decision not to be taken lightly. Furthermore, adding to a second member to your “pet family” may bring up territorial and jealousy issues between the newcomer and your beloved resident pet. There are some steps you can take to make the transition as smooth as possible:

- Continue to pay lots of attention to your “first” pet. It’s easy to get caught up on the excitement of a newcomer – make sure to make ALL of your pets feel special.
- Don’t force your pets to spend time together – give them both time and space to get used to each other at their own pace. When introducing them to each other, make sure to have them in a controlled environment and have someone around to help if a confrontation arises.
- Make sure to separate their food and water bowls, and keep the animals separate at meal times. Do not tolerate aggressive behavior.
- Exercise patience and good judgment with your pets – it may take a couple of months for things to smooth out completely!