



Boxer Rescue LA

## Dog & Cat Integration Tips

We have helped you select a Boxer that we feel has potential success at home with your cat(s).

It is now up to you to take the time and follow the steps to integrate the two at home.

### KEEP THE DOG AND CAT SEPARATE IN THE BEGINNING!

The first and most crucial step is to give your new Boxer the TIME to feel a little bit at home before they meet the cat. There is so much excitement when coming into a new home that the last thing you want to do is throw a cat to the mix. An excited dog is likely not going to pay attention so let your new Boxer get use to things for enough time to be able to focus calmly. That could be days, weeks or more, depending on the dog. **ABSOLUTE MINIMUM 24-48 HOURS**

Once your new Boxer is settled in you can now start your cat/dog integration training.

### HIGH VALUE TREAT:

Find what treat your new dog cannot resist. This is short term so if it's chicken, steak, cheese or whatever is most appealing will help you keep your dog's focus.

### TIMING:

If you schedule your cat training session BEFORE you dog has their regular meal, they will be hungry. High value treats + hunger = better incentive to follow instructions!

### FIRST PHASE – VIEWING CAT IN ARMS:

With your high value treat and a hungry dog on a leash in on one side of the room. Give him little bits of reward to get his attention. Then have someone walk into the room and stay a safe distance away. Wait until your dog “sees” the cat and call their attention to you. When they look away from the cat without a reaction reward them. Repeat this cat viewing / reward for non-reaction many times. When comfortable can have the person holding the cat move closer. NO CONTACT. If dog reacts at any time to the cat, the session is over.

### SECOND PHASE – VIEWING CAT ON THE GROUND.

When you have the Cat in Arm / Reward routine down and feel comfortable to move on, the next step is similar to the first. Only now, and from a safe distance, after getting dogs attention with treats, have the person handling the cat, place the cat on the ground. Reward and repeat as in first Phase.

### LEASHED LEISURE TIME.

With the cat and the dog becoming more familiar with each other from the reward training phases you can begin to solidify their “tolerance” of each other by having them both in the same room (secure and at safe distance from each other) while you enjoy leisure time at home. Watch a movie with cat in a lap and dog on a leash. This time spend co-existing under strict supervision helps create the understand that everyone belongs to the same pack.



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### CRATE TIME:

Using a crate for supervised time is a great exercise. You can have dog in crate and cat walking free. Or cat in crate and dog on leash outside. Be sure to control the situation and always REWARD wanted (good) behavior.

Using the steps above and always supervising, rewarding and taking your time, you can bring harmony between your new Boxer and your cat(s). You never want to rush the process and end up with new dog allowed to chase the cat. Hard to come back from wanting to chase again. Go Slow!

### REMEMBER:

- ▶ Take Your Time. You cannot rush the process. It will take as long as it takes. Every animal is different.
- ▶ Let Your New Dog Settle at Home First - Before introducing Cat.
- ▶ Use High Value Reward for Best Results in redirecting attention from cat back to you.
- ▶ Never Leave Cat and Dog Alone Unsupervised
- ▶ Be Patient. You will Get There!