

Are your pets facing
challenging situations?



NEW PETS



Zylkene®

All they need is love & Zylkene



Introducing another pet

Introducing another pet to the home

Introducing a new pet to a household is a big decision and it's important to consider how it will affect your current pets. Often a new pet could be a negative rather than a positive change for your current pet. You might think a new puppy will brighten your elderly dog, but it's possible the puppy could wear your older dog out and actually cause more upset.

Think it through carefully and seek professional advice.

If you do decide to get a new cat or dog, it's important for both your existing animal and your new pet that you take time to help them both cope with the introduction. Remember to take it slow.





Step by step guide

Give them Zylkene and ensure you've started administration early enough, i.e. before you bring the new pet home. This applies to both pets, perhaps ask the current keeper of your new pet if they'd mind starting any administration a few days before you're due to pick them up.

Environment - before you start, make sure all cats have adequate resources and each dog has their own safe haven in the form of a den.

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Introductions

- 1) Initial separation** - keep your new pet and current pets in separate but adjoining rooms. Your new pet should be confined to one room and your current pet to the rest of the house.
- 2) Feeding** - feed both pets either side of a door so they associate the positive experience of food with the new smells of each other.

If both pets are dogs, don't put the bowls too close initially but gradually move them closer over a few days until they eat calmly together either side of the door. Don't move cat bowls too close together as they can become territorial.

The next stage is to prop the door open meaning the pets can see each other but not gain access to the other room.

- 3) Swap smells** - switch your pets' blankets or toys to help them become accustomed to each other's smell.

With dogs, rub a cloth on one dog and place it under the feed bowl of the other.

For cats, rub the face of one cat with a soft cloth and then rub the scent onto the other cat. Don't put the scent near food in the case of cats as this can cause territorial issues.

Remember to do this for both animals to ensure they're both exposed to the other's scent.



- 4) **Swap rooms** - put your current pet in the room where your new pet has been living and let the new pet roam the rest of the house. This provides more opportunity to become familiar with each other's smells and for the new pet to explore their new surroundings freely.
- 5) **Stop negative interactions** - when you start to introduce your pets, do it very slowly and gradually, almost so they don't notice. Don't let any fearful or aggressive behaviours become too intense. If this happens, separate them and return to the steps above.
- 6) **Positive reinforcement** - if your current pet is a dog, ensure they know basic commands. You can then distract them from the new pet, as well as provide positive reinforcement in the newcomer's presence, associating them as good. Don't punish either pet.



It might be a good idea to keep any dogs on a lead initially, and make sure cats always have a clear escape route to another part of the house. Don't leave the new pets alone together until you are completely happy they are settled.

Dogs like to eat cat food and sometimes eat cat poo!

Ensure all cat resources are in places the dog can't reach to stop them invading.



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Cats resources



Ensure cats have adequate resources. The rule with cats is $N+1$ where N is the number of cats in the house. If you have 2 cats, you need 3 sets of resources, if you have 3 cats you need 4 sets, etc.

Checklist for happy cats

Litter trays

Ensure these are somewhere quiet and private and preferably not right next to a glass door where others can see in.

Food

Cats prefer not to eat together, ensure food bowls are in different places around the house.

Water

Cats prefer their water bowls to be away from their food, don't place them next to each other.

Sleeping areas

Cats prefer to be up high so provide each cat with a separate sleeping place where they can survey their territory and watch the world go by.

Scratching posts

Scratching is important to help cats stretch, condition claws and communicate territory boundaries. Scratching posts should therefore always be by entry or exit points. Each post should be taller than the cat stretched out and have vertical patterns like the bark on a tree. Cats prefer these to posts with spiral patterns.

Toys

It's important all the cats have plenty of toys to mimic their natural hunting behaviours. Cats like their prey to move, join in with your cat to encourage them to play. This helps to keep your cat active and promotes appropriate hunting behaviour.

Give them Zylkene

The main ingredient in Zylkene can help your cat cope with the coming changes in their life.

The doggy den

It's important dogs have a 'den' or safe place they associate as positive. This gives them somewhere to hide when changes are making them uneasy. Zylkene can also help them cope.

Below is our checklist to create the perfect doggy den:

Size

Ensure the den is large enough for your dog to comfortably stand up, lie down, stretch out and turn around. A dog crate is ideal for this purpose.



Location

Provide the den in a room your pet usually likes to hide and where they feel comfortable.



Smells

Line the crate with used blankets, towels or old clothes to make it smell familiar.



Treats and toys

Provide treats and toys in the den to ensure your pet associates it as a positive place. A hollow chew toy stuffed with kibbles will keep them busy for hours.



Free access

Allow your pet to access the den freely at all times. This way they have chosen to go there and are not forced.



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What is Zylkene?

Zylkene contains a natural product, derived from casein, a protein in milk. It is a molecule well known to promote the relaxation of newborns after breastfeeding. Zylkene has become a valuable support worldwide for veterinary surgeons, behaviourists, nurses and pet owners in helping pets cope when facing unusual and unpredictable situations.

When to use Zylkene



How to give Zylkene

 <p>Cats & Small Dogs</p> <p>75 mg</p>	Up to 5kg	1 capsule a day
	5 - 10kg	2 capsules a day
 <p>Medium Dogs</p> <p>225 mg</p>	10 - 15kg	1 capsule a day
	15 - 30kg	2 capsules a day
 <p>Large Dogs</p> <p>450 mg</p>	15 - 30kg	1 capsule a day
	30 - 60kg	2 capsules a day

For more information visit www.vetoquinol.com.au

Zylkene is a complementary feed for cats and dogs. This is one of a series of owner education leaflets sponsored by Vetoquinol, manufacturers of Zylkene.

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