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# INTRODUCING YOUR NEW GREYHOUND TO A CAT

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When introducing your new greyhound into a home with cats, you have to be ready to train your retired racer to accept other pets

After all, every bit of training your dog has had so far has taught him or her to chase and kill small furry objects.

Unfortunately, this can just as easily describe a cat as a rabbit, or most greyhounds won't make much of a distinction between the two.

However, greyhounds are smart dogs and can learn not to chase cats. With that in mind, here are some general points to remember when training a greyhound to live with cats.

Greyhounds are individuals; some will learn easily not to chase cats, while some may never be able to forget their training. Some dogs will show little interest in other animals. With these dogs, training will take very little time. Other dogs will be extremely interest in cats. This type needs the most firm training. However, until you get to know your dog, never assume he or she will get along with cats; **it is much safer to assume that your dog will be interested.**

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**NEVER** put a greyhound and cats in a room together to let them get acquainted. Unless you have already trained your dog not to chase cats, your greyhound will assume you want him or her to attack the cat. Instead, keep the dog and cats separate for a few weeks, in different parts of the house if possible.

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The best way to acclimate dogs and cats to each other is to let the dog see the cat a couple of times each day. When doing this, **make sure the dog is muzzled and on a leash.**

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Walk the dog in front of and around the cat, on a very short lead. When the dog looks at, sniffs at, cries at, or tries to go after the cat, firmly say, "**NO**" and jerk upward on the leash.

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Do these walks for a few minutes two or three times a day. This training could take weeks or months. When your greyhound avoids looking at the cats or showing any interest in them on these "cat rounds" for several days in a row the training is over.

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Be sure to praise your greyhound when he or she does well on a "cat round" (i.e. shows no interest in cats or avoids going after them). Give a treat for a job well done. **You can never praise your greyhound enough.**

**Be Patient.** Unless you are lucky enough to have a dog who has little interest in chasing cats, retraining will take time.

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