



Can dogs and cats get along? The phrase, “Fighting like cats and dogs” is certainly a phrase pet owners want to avoid. However, the battle for turf and compatibility between dogs and cats can prove challenging.

The good news is that by employing a few pet friendship tactics, you can create a utopia of for both dogs and cats to live in pet harmony. In fact, the American Pet Products Association found that [42 percent of American households](#) have more than one pet.

Let’s take a closer look at how dog owners can help their dogs live with cats.

Dogs Instinctively Chase Cats

Chasing is a natural dog trait. However, when it comes to your cat, chasing can be a very big issue. Most problems that arise between dog and cat are related to the chase. Dogs can’t seem to help it, and cats can’t help but run from the hounds!

"The most common problem I see with dogs and cats in the same household is dogs chasing cats," says Liz Palika, award-winning author on pet behavior [told Pet Sitters International](#) (PSI).

All instinct aside, dog owners can change pet behavior with management tactics promoting prevention and motivation.

"The best way to overcome this problem is obedience training for the owner AND the dog," Palika suggests. "The owner needs to learn how to teach the dog and the dog needs to learn self control...and also that the owner is the one to set the rules!"



Prevent Your Dog from Chasing the Cat

Using behavior management techniques to prevent your dog from chasing the cat is all about changing the pet environment. This is vital, since the more your dog chases the cat, the more he or she will want to do it over and over. It is a self-reinforcing behavior for your pup.

One excellent prevention tactic to rearrange your dog's behavior toward the cat is to remove him or her before the situation heats up. The moment your dog fixates on the cat, remove him or her from the area.

This might be tough for you as a loving dog owner at first, since you enjoy your pups company, but it is essential for changing chasing behavior. This tactic can be used when introducing a new cat to the family, or if chasing behavior already exists.

Take your dog to a place he or she associates with good things. When removing your dog from the scene, be calm and assertive. This will keep all pets relaxed, and avoid speaking to your dog too.

After a few minutes, let your dog free and keep a close eye on him or her. If your dog finds the cat and repeats the behavior, put him or her back in the peaceful time out area again.

Positive Dog Behavior Toward Your Cat Equals Treats

The above prevention tactic to change your dog's behavior toward the family cat can be further reinforced with a few treats. One thing all dog owners know is that treats wield unbelievable power.

Like hypnotism, the mere mention of a treat shifts wild dog behavior to the most well mannered pup on earth. Use this treat power to your advantage when it comes to your dog and cat getting along like peas and carrots.

Prepare a bag of dog treats your pup simply can't resist. It is, however, important that these treats are healthy. When your dog looks away from the cat, or has a desired behavior toward the cat, give him or her a treat.



Give Your Cat Support Too

Cats can have the tendency to evoke unwanted dog behavior too. Scratching is of course a cat's best defense when a wet nose gets a little too close for comfort. Dog owners can reward their cats with treats for desired behavior as well.

It is also important to give your cat safe places to retreat to. This could be high perches or areas of the home the dog isn't allowed or can't reach.

"For example, a cat door leading to another room in the house and ledges on which he can easily jump," recommends the [Partnership for Animal Welfare](#) (PAW). "Always provide places where each animal can retreat for safety and privacy, a spot that is his or hers alone."

Creating a house of peace and safety for both dog and cat is not unattainable. Even if your pup is a [smaller breed](#), your cat could feel threatened. Employ the above dog owner tactics to ensure all furry creatures in your home get along splendidly. Allowing you to enjoy the loving benefits both pets possess.