

WHITE MILL VETERINARY CENTRE

for healthy pets in Sandwich & East Kent



Introducing a new puppy

Before you rush off to your local dog rescue or breeder, here are a few tips to make bringing home a new puppy as stress free as possible.

Choose a time when your home is not too busy and you will have time to devote to your new puppy and your existing dog (if applicable), for example, avoid holidays or other times when friends and family are likely to visit.

If you already have a dog then you must make sure it has its' own space away from the puppy, to avoid any rivalry. Make sure you supervise when they meet for the first time incase there is a clash in personality.

Soon after bringing home your new puppy, take her/him to your veterinarian to get her checked and vaccinated, puppies have weak immune systems and are likely to pick up something at the rescue home or kennels. Consider adopting/purchasing a dog of the opposite sex to your existing dog (if applicable), this will avoid same sex rivalry and associated problems. For a number of reasons all your dogs should be speyed/neutered.

Most of the time, the dogs will sniff each other, one might overstep the mark and get put in its place, both should learn their place and then get on like the best of friends! And always remember to keep giving resident dogs an equal amount of attention, so they won't see the new dog as a threat.

Can dogs and cats get along together?

You cannot force cats and dogs to get along. Sometimes the best you can hope for is a sort of coexistence. Introducing dogs and cats takes time. It is generally recommend that the cat is confined to a room or two by a closed door and the two of them getting used to the scent of the other animal but not see it. When they are settled with that, let them see each other through a barrier like a baby gate. If the dog tries to go for the cat, stop and redirect the dog to a good toy. Cats are NOT toys. Never force the two together.

It can take weeks or even months for them to learn to tolerate each other. Sometimes they can also become good friends - it all depends on the cat and the dog. Again, never force it. The worst thing you can do is drop the cat in front of the dog or vice verse or even restrain the two (you could get badly scratched or bitten).