

Use this when:

- A second cat, kitten or dog is joining the home.
- Cats share rooms but tension, blocking or chasing is starting.
- Food, water, litter, scratch, rest and escape routes feel crowded.

Direct answer:

Multi-cat homes work better when important resources are duplicated and spread out. Do not make every cat pass through one corner, one doorway or one dominant animal to eat, drink, rest, scratch or use the litter box.

Room map:

Entry / hallway

- Escape route open? _____
- Blocking or ambush spot? _____
- Fix to test this week: _____

Main living area

- Scratching choice: _____
- Rest or perch choice: _____
- Hide or retreat option: _____
- Can a cat leave without passing another cat? _____

Food and water

- Cat 1 food location: _____
- Cat 2 food location: _____
- Water station 1: _____
- Water station 2: _____
- Are food and water away from litter? _____

Litter

- Box count: _____
- Box 1 location / entry style: _____
- Box 2 location / entry style: _____
- Extra box or backup location: _____
- Is any box trapped in a dead-end corner? _____

Introductions stage:

- Separate spaces
- Scent exchange
- Visual contact
- Short shared-room sessions
- Shared-home practice
- Slow-down reset

Watch for:

- One cat blocking doors, stairs, food, litter or resting spots.
- Stalking, chasing, hiding, growling or tense staring that escalates.
- Appetite, litter or energy changes after access expands.
- A cat stopping normal routines because another animal is nearby.

Common mistakes:

- Do not force contact to "get it over with."
- Do not put every resource in one crowded corner.
- Do not use one high-value perch as the only good resting place.
- Do not close off every escape route during early meetings.
- Do not treat sudden litter changes as spite.

Next CatWorldly steps:

- Cat introductions hub: <https://catworldly.com/cat-introductions/>
- Cat introduction step log: <https://catworldly.com/cat-introduction-step-log/>
- Cat Help map: <https://catworldly.com/cat-help/>