

# Introducing Dogs (or Puppies) into Homes with Cats



*By: Ed Frawley*



**Leerburg Kennels**

## **Foreword**

When you view this eBook in PDF format. Click on **BOOKMARKS** on the top left side of your PDF reader, these bookmarks are eBook chapters.

[Leerburg Kennel](#) and Video is owned by Ed Frawley.

Ed has owned German Shepherds (GSD) for over 45 years. Since 1978 he has bred over 350 litters of German working bloodline GSD's. His dogs work in law enforcement, as S&R dogs, as competition Schutzhund dogs, and as family companions and protectors.

Since 1980 Ed has produced over 120 dog training videos and DVD's. He was a police K-9 handler for 10 years, competed in several dog sports, including AKC obedience and Schutzhund. In addition he has built one of the top dog training supply businesses in the world.

If you go to the web site **Leerburg.com**® you will see that it has over 10,000 printed pages. The Leerburg Web Discussion board has over 10,000 registered members and over 120,000 posts in the archives. Learn to use our site search function.

# Introducing Dogs (or Puppies) into Homes with Cats

I am often asked if a new puppy (or dog) will get along with the family cat or cats. My answer is always the same "it depends."

It depends on:

- The ability of the new owners to be consistent in their training
- The effort that the new owners are prepared to make to insure success
- The dogs
- The cats



**Lindy vom Leerburg II with some kittens**

Over the years I have introduced a number of dogs to cats. These dogs have accepted and lived with my two house cats without problems. I would have bet a lot of money that a couple of those adult police dogs would never have accepted a cat, but they did.

With that said – I have seen a couple of dogs that I would never trust with my cats.

Usually the biggest part of a cat-dog problem is the owners. They make a huge mistake by just bringing a pup or a dog home and just let it loose in the house with the cat. This is a formula for disaster.



**The way to introduce a new dog into a home with cats is with the use of a dog crate. Here we see a cat trying to figure out what this new thing in the house is.**

Dog owners need to understand that their dogs are pack animals with strong instincts. It's the owner's job to learn about pack behaviors and to teach the dog that cats are part of the family pack.

The first step in this process of acclimating a dog to your cat is to provide controlled exposure. The dog must see the cats in the house over an extended period of time (weeks.) This is done with the use of a dog crate. In the beginning cats are put in a separate room before the dog is brought into the house. I put my dogs on a leash when I bring them in to show them that coming into the house is a controlled experience and not someplace where they can charge around and be crazy. In other words by having them on leash I set the tone of how I want them to act in the house right off the bat.



**A family Kitty investigating the new smells  
of the new pack member**

Once in the crate if the dog barks at the cats they are verbally scolded. If they will not stop barking I will either cover the crate with a sheet or spray lemon water in their face with a water bottle

or any number of other things to control the barking. (That's the subject for a different article)

The dog is never allowed to be out of the crate with the cats loose until they have gone a week without barking when the cats come into the room. This does not mean the dogs are locked in dog crates for weeks at a time. They can have free time in the house but the cats are put in a different room when the dog is out.



The period of time that an adult dog spends in the crate, he is acclimated to a muzzle. I like the wire basket muzzles because they are less restrictive to the dog and the dogs accept them quicker than the plastic muzzles we sell. The down side is they are more expensive. For those people who do not want to spend the money on a wire muzzle the plastic Jafco muzzles are inexpensive and work just fine. It is important to

learn to put them on properly. If it's done wrong the dog may get them off and chew them up when you are not watching.

### **How to Select a Muzzle**



**eBook**

Getting the dog used to the muzzle during these two weeks gives the dog something else to think about other than the cats in the house. After two weeks of wearing it in the crate it becomes second nature for the dog to have it on.



When the day comes to allow the dog to be loose in the rooms with the cats it is important to do this while the dog is in a muzzle. He should also be wearing a prong collar with a leash.

If the adult dog shows the slightest sign of aggression towards the cats you need to give a strong correction. I tell people to give a correction that the dog will remember the next time it thinks about being aggressive. Some dogs need a level 10 correction on a scale of 1 to 10 (puppies would not be corrected this hard). If you have been doing your training the way you should your dog will look at you as a pack leader. He will instinctively accept you as pack leader and your position that cats are not prey items to chase and kill.



## How to Fit a Prong Collar



**eBook**

At some point in time the muzzle must come off. This should only happen when you are comfortable with the actions of your dog when the cats are around. You must have patience. For adult dogs and cats this could take months. With time they will settle into a life style where both sides accept the fact that they now share the same territory.

I need to say that there is a fine line between allowing the dog and cat to get to know one another and keeping them separated. Running in the house should never be allowed, even if it seems to be in play. When cats run they can easily trigger prey drive in the dog. I had the experience of seeing a neighbor's dog kill a cat that the dog had lived with for years. The cat ran across the front yard. This dog had a lot of prey drive, it chased the cat and killed it before anyone could even attempt to stop it. This taught me a valuable lesson. That is, that dogs may act one way in the

home and a different way when they are outside.  
The moral of the story is to be careful.



**Fred teaching a new Leerburg puppy  
that Cats have claws**

Some cats accept dogs better than others. One of our house cats (Garfield) came into the home as a kitten. The other (Fred) as an adult barn cat that was adopted. Garfield grew up with my old stud dog (Nick) He kind of adopted Nick as his best buddy. He looked at Nick as a heating pad. He would wait until Nick lay down and would go over and curl up on top of his tail and stomach. For months Nick would jump up and walk away in disgust. Over time they became friends with Nick eventually allowing Garfield to lie on top of him and curl up next to him whenever possible. He even allowed him to feed from the same food bowl while he was eating. This just amazed me because Nick was dog aggressive and would attack another male dog without hesitation.

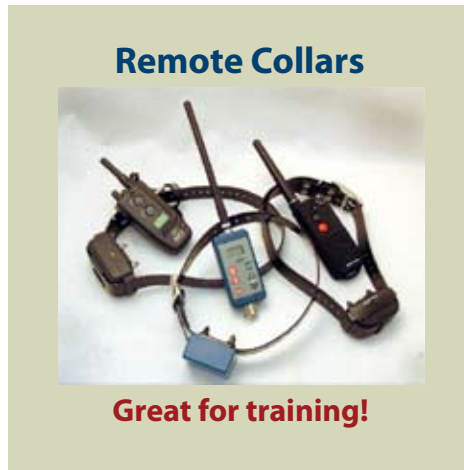
On the other hand Fred has never warmed to dogs. He learns to tolerate them on an individual basis, but he will always “hiss” if they come too close. He is no dummy; he knows who he can hiss at and who he must hide from. I think he uses Garfield as a litmus test. He watches how the dogs react to Garfield and then bases his response accordingly.



**My son Jeff, Natan and Garfield  
(many years ago)**

If there is any question about long term imprinting on the dog I will use an electric collar. The key to the collar is not to shock the dog when he is sniffing at the cat. The dog will think the pain comes from the cat and may attack. The dog should get stimulation when you see it moving towards the cat or even looking at it in a funny way (like a Big Mac and I think I can catch it.) Simply say “NO” and give an automatic stimulation with the collar. If you are not a serious trainer, one of the [Tri-Tronics Collars](#) is a perfect inexpensive choice for this situation. If you are

a competitor I would recommend a collar with additional features.



Many people get puppies and bring them into the home where there is an existing cat. Under these circumstances it's important to realize that a cat with claws can take a pup's eye out in an instant. So if your cat has claws you need to be more concerned for your 8-week-old pup than for your cat. Follow the same steps with the dog crate. In this case, it teaches the cat that the dog is now a family member. If I have a pup with a lot of prey drive I will get a puppy prong collar and let him drag a line in the house. If he gets into trouble or chases the cat I will correct him. It does not take many strong corrections to teach the dog that "NO" means "NO". It's very important to show the pup a lot of love after these experiences. He has to see that you do not hold any grudges and that you are still his best friend.

So if you have to correct, then give ten times the cuddling after the correction.



With a little bit of luck you will be able to get your dog and cat to live together in peace. It's very important to remember to go slowly. No matter how quickly or badly you want it to happen, you have to allow these things to process at their own speed, which can be a snail's pace over months. The best advice I can give is to error on the side of caution and don't take chances with your pets lives.



**This is a photo of our friend Deanna's bitch in her whelping box just before whelping a litter... of pups.**

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## **DVDs that May be Needed for Training**

Basic Dog Obedience - 4 Hours

Remote Collar Training for Pet Owners - 2 Hours  
45 Minutes

DEALING WITH DOMINANT AND AGGRESSIVE DOGS - 3 Hours 30 Minutes

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## E-mails

### Question on Dog That Kills Cats:

My mom and little sister live in the country and have several cats. One of the cats they had was a very mean cat who did have her claws. The other cats were rescued, and declawed. They decided to get 2 purebred German Shepherd puppies. The dogs and cats got along great, and the dogs are very good dogs. The dogs are 1/2 brothers, and my mom has not fixed the dogs, as the breeder has asked my mom to use them 1x for studing, and would also like to show Bear.

Bear's grandfather killed a poodle over the dinner bowl.

The dogs are now almost 4 yrs old and very well behaved. Bear is INSANE about balls. You would think he is a Retriever!!! He and Wolf do play rough with each other as well, but when it comes to the cats, they are so gentle with all of the declawed cats. The one cat 'Spanky' on the other hand has been awful to the dogs since they were puppies. She would scratch them on the nose any chance she got, she would do it when mom's back was turned, and of course when the dogs growled, or attempted to retaliate they got into trouble.

Mom came home one day to Spanky lying in the bathroom, soaking wet (I mean dripping wet!).

She rushed her to the vet, and was able to save her. The dogs never broke the skin, but as cats get abscesses, the area where the dogs grabbed her, the skin died and ripped open. (I guess I don't really blame the dogs for this, as she really was an awful cat, and if I were a dog I probably would have as well, but that doesn't excuse it...)



Nobody was concerned for the other cats, as like I said, the dogs got on great with them. They would lick the cats, and the cats loved the dogs. They would actually sleep on the dogs!!! With what happened to Spanky, we were always cautious with leaving the cats alone with the dogs, and would usually separate them into the basement



(usually, but not always). Well, my sister went to work on Sunday, and she separated the cats from the dogs (cats downstairs, dogs upstairs) but 'Spook', a very skiddish, nervous cat must have darted thru the door with out my sister noticing. When she got home from work, Spook was in the bathroom, dead, and again, soaking wet. We tried to believe it wasn't the dogs, as there were no bite marks, but I did do a close inspection of the body, and there were 2 small bruises on both sides of her body, as well as a large bruise under her chin. There was blood in her mouth (and a small tooth missing) and blood in one of her ears. I am sure the dogs did this, probably not on purpose, maybe she just darted off somewhere, Bear was bored and saw it as a moving ball, and maybe the were just playing with her, grabbed her head, and strangled her by mistake (playing too rough). The only explanation I have for her being wet is that they tried to lick her alive once they saw she was dead. But it has now happened twice, and we are all very disturbed. No one more than my sister, who of course blames herself, and doesn't want anything to do with the dogs. (They were her dogs, and she was incredibly attached) We don't know what to do now. Should we put them down, or try to find a home? Regardless, my mom works night shift and refuses to get rid of the dogs as it mean my sister will be alone in the country at night. What if we do find a home, and they do it again? Does anyone have any ideas as to what happened, or what to do from here???

## **Ed's Answer About Dog That Kills Cats:**

OH PLEASE DON'T HUMOR ME WITH YOUR STUPIDITY!

What part of common sense did you miss!!!

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## **Question On Dog That Chases Cat:**

Hello,

I have a seven year old cat and recently adopted a ten month old toy poodle. The poodle is very sweet-natured, except when it comes to the cat. He will not leave the cat alone. My poor cat cannot get a drink of water without being chased. The poodle is not aggressive toward the cat, but he harasses the cat every time he moves! I want to correct this behavior, and my firm "Nos" are not working. Please advise me on remedying this problem. Thank you in advance for your time and advice.

Sincerely appreciative,  
Tina Dayton

## **Answer to Dog Chasing Cat:**

I have written an article on How to Introduce a dog into a home with cats - [You can find these if you go to the list of training articles and scroll down.](#)

With that said – your dog is not trained. If it were you could control it. You MUST train this dog – just because its small does not mean it should not be trained.

I also recommend that you go to my web site and read the article [I wrote on my philosophy of dog training](#). I think you will get some good ideas there

You will probably find that you have not had the full picture on the steps of training a dog. Your dog must go through training steps before it can be considered fully trained.

You will read why I am not a fan of taking an untrained dog to obedience classes. No professional dog trainer would ever take his dog to an obedience class with 15 or 20 untrained dogs and try and train it there. It's crazy. The dogs cannot concentrate with the distractions.

I think if you read the testimonials on my DVD you will see that my customers feel the same way.

If you make the decision to learn to train - get a prong collar. [You can read about it on my web site. There is an article I wrote \(with a number of excellent photos\)](#) on how to fit a prong collar, you can also read about the different types of prongs.

## Ed Frawley's Philosophy of Dog Training



eBook

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### Question on Introducing Cats to Dogs:

Hi, I am looking for a book or video on curbing animal prey instinct. I have a 7 year old female Weimaraner that has started killing cats. She lived with our cat since we got her (The dog had 2 other homes before ours). She seemed to like our cat so when our cat died of old age we thought it would be ok to get a new kitten and the dog killed it by shaking it. She ran in the door and snatched it up. We also found 2 dead adult cats in our fenced backyard that she killed. We have an adult cat also that we got the same time as the kitten she killed. I want to teach her to accept the cat and that hunting inside our house is not acceptable. We do not use this dog for hunting. Is this possible or not. I am hearing a lot of Weimaraners kill cats. Thanks for your help.

## **Ed's Comments on Cats and Dogs:**

This is just an example of what can happen when the correct protocol is not followed when introducing a new cat into a home with dogs.

Dogs that kill cats need serious obedience training and serious pack training. If this were my dog it would go through my protocol on **GROUND WORK TO BECOMING A PACK LEADER**. [\(Read my article on this\)](#) It would be a long, long, long time before this dog was not tethered to me on a line while in the house.

I would also be using an electric collar on the dog (in the house). There is also a protocol on how to use e-collars. I have written about this too.

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### **Ground Work to Establish Pack Structure with Adult Dogs**



**eBook**

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## **Question on Introducing Cats to Dogs:**

Dear Mr. Frawley,

I bought my dog from a disreputable breeder. I did not know any better. She was much older than they told me she was and not at all socialized to humans. From the very beginning she wanted to chase the cat. At first I scolded her but she didn't seem to care about my opinion of her actions. My house has a path that runs though the kitchen and living room in a circle and she quickly learned to just run the circle and have me chase her back to the cat. She's fast so I got a throw chain and I have pretty good aim. But we weren't bonding. I decided hitting her was not the answer and started putting her outside instead. Then I enrolled in obedience classes and spend most my time with her. We do everything together. I have not hit her since that first month and things are going well, except I can not get her to stop antagonizing the cat. She is absolutely obsessed. My dog seems to want to do the right thing in all matters except the cat. Do you have any suggestions?

Thank you,  
Martha J Pelletier

### **Answer:**

Use a drag line (18" to 3') attached to a prong collar on the dog. If you cannot get a hold of that short of a line then make it longer.

EVERY time that you say “NO” and the dog continues to chase it MUST get a strong, strong, strong correction. The dog must respect your authority and pack position or it will not stop this behavior. If the corrections are not strong enough the dog will not respect the command. This is a very, very simple concept.

Some people cannot correct hard enough to make their dog respect them. These are either soft temperamental people, or extremely hard temperamental dogs. These people should use electric collars or get rid of the dog. The collars work ALL of the time.



## **Question on Introducing Cats to Dogs:**

Hi

I have a question for you. I have a 2 1/2 year old male neutered German Shepard/Doberman mix dog that we have had for 3 months. We had two cats one that had kittens shortly after the dog arrived consequently 2 kittens ended up getting their skulls crushed by this dog as they walked by one went by his food bowl and one went under the dogs legs after the dog and the mother cat got in a fight (the cat provoked it). He also growls if you approach his food bowl and guards it. He has snapped at my foot as I have walked by him while he had a treat and has growled as I tried to move him off the bed while he was lying beside "his favorite owner." My question is I am pregnant and have also gotten a pit bull/boxer mix puppy, which the older dog has attacked and would like to know the best route for this dog.

Sincerely,  
Christel

### **Answer:**

The best route for this dog is a new owner. One that understands or tries to understand what is going on in a dog's head. You are making too many errors with this dog and unless you are prepared to make some changes you have created a disaster that is waiting to happen.



I suggest you read my article titled [Dealing with the Dominant Dog](#).

You should have read my article on how to introduce dogs and cats. Had you introduced your pets properly you would probably not have had 2 dead kittens. You should approach the addition of this new dog in the same way as I explained to introduce cats.

Just from your e-mail I can tell you that you are bringing these problems onto yourself. A dog SHOULD NEVER be allowed on the bed or even IN THE BEDROOM. This has nothing to do with fleas or dirt - it has everything to do with PACK DRIVE, RANK in the FAMILY PACK and DOMINANCE.

Unless you are prepared to learn something about dog training my advice is to find new homes for both dogs. In my opinion you are putting your future child in danger.

If you chose to keep these animals, at the very least you should get a prong collar and my training video [Basic Dog Obedience](#). Read what I have to say about obedience training. I doubt that you have approached it in the manner I talk about.

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## Dealing with the Dominant Dog



eBook

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### Question on Introducing Cats to Dogs:

I have a question. I got a new dog recently and he has been sweet to my cat. The cat on the other hand, strikes out and runs after him, attacking. The cat has lived with dogs before, and has always adjusted before; I think the cat is jealous of the dog since he is new in the house.

My dog has even got to the point where he cries if she hisses or growls at him they fight. The cat provokes it and seems happy when she gets him to fight back. I know part of it is the cat wants to play, but is being very rough about it, and my dog would never hurt a fly.

When the cat is not in an aggressive mood, she just walks by unfazed by him, maybe with a little hiss.

I am worried that the cat's behavior will cause him to dislike her, and never want to be friends with her. Yes, we do reprimand her (we do this 'sound' when she does a bad thing, and she knows what it means) when she picks fights but she does not really care.

**Answer:**

Cats need corrections just like dogs. I would put a number of cans around the house with rocks in them. When the cat does this I would be throwing these cans at it. I will guarantee you the cat will not like this. Spoiled cats are just as bad as spoiled dogs.

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**Question on Introducing Cats to Dogs:**

Mr. Leerburg,

My dog, a German Shepherd/Greyhound female mix - age 4 is becoming more and more aggressive with my 4 house cats. We got this dog as a puppy and introduced her into our home which had 2 other female dogs and the 4 existing house cats. She used to fight with the other dogs and I had been advised that she was trying to be the top dog in the house. Unfortunately our other dogs have passed away. The attacks on the cats are unprovoked. This morning my dog came in the house, one of my cats was lying on a rug which the dog has never laid on

and she attacked the cat viciously. They both ended up running outside where we were able to separate them. The cat hid in the backyard. After about 10 minutes I finally located the cat and the dog attacked her again. The cat only had minor physical injuries, but was very scared. This has happened before and the dog does not discriminate, she has attacked each of the cats.

Do you have any suggestions for me? I can not leave the dog outside because she digs out and I am terrified of her attacking a person, which she has never done, but I fear if something is not done, this will be the next step.

Thanks for your help.

Cynthia

**Answer:**

This dog will probably never attack a person. People totally misunderstand animal aggression vs. human aggression. It is two totally different things.

The solution to this problem begins with you. If your dog was properly obedience trained it would respond to you when you said "NO!!!" - Because you can not control the dog this only means that you have failed in your responsibility to properly train your dog.

I breed police dogs. When my dogs are properly trained they attack humans. A police dog is no

different than your dog from the standpoint that it must learn to mind the pack leader (YOU). The reason my dogs mind is because they know the consequences of not minding. This means that if they do not respect me when I tell them NO - they get a severe correction. There is no gray area between NO and MAYBE NOT. No means NO and if a dog does not respect me when I tell it NO then I take the position of pack leader and I do what is necessary to get this dogs respect. How severe the correction is depends on the temperament of the dog. Some dogs (and I am sure yours is one of these) only requires a leash correction with a prong collar or a correction with an electric collar.

If my dog did not respond to me telling it to "leave it alone" it would get its ass kicked so bad that it would wonder what on earth it could do to not ever make this happen again. In other words, I do not fool around with dogs that do not respect the meaning of the word NO.

This is YOUR MISTAKE not your dog's mistake. It is not that I blame you - people that are not professional dog trainers do not understand pack and rank drives in dogs. But if you expect to live this with dog you are going to have to make an effort to learn.

If you would like to learn something about the principles of obedience training a dog, read the description for my [Basic Dog Obedience video](#).

You will probably find that you have not had the full picture on the steps of training a dog must go through before it can be considered fully trained. You can also read why I am not a fan of taking an untrained dog to obedience classes.

It sounds like you should consider an electric collar - the [Dogtra 1700NCP](#) would be the best solution. [You can find it in the list of training equipment on my web site.](#)

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**Remote Collar Pet Training**

**\$40.00** +s&h



**2 Hours 45 Minutes Long**

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### **Question on Introducing Cats to Dogs:**

Hello from Michigan.

I am hoping you can answer a question for me. I have researched a lot of German shepherd information and recently purchased a female. I

did not find your site until afterwards though, and I am hoping I am not sorry. I am so amazed and impressed with the information you make available. I will be ordering a video shortly. My question is, my female Sire: Addi von der Gundorfer Hohe and Bitch: Gini vom Merlin, is a very intelligent dog. But we do have a slight problem...Sasha LOVES to kill cats. She seems to take great pleasure in it in fact. Is this normal? My obedience instructor says that is aggression. Do I have a problem? I really don't see it anywhere else. She is 8 months old, 65 lbs, and 23" at withers. I know you are very busy, but I'm looking for help.

Thanks so much for your time.

Teri

**Answer:**

Your obedience instructor needs to go back to school. Feel free to tell her I said this. Your dog kills cats because of prey drive, not aggression. Aggression has to do with protecting ones self. Prey drive has to do with chasing and killing things that run away.

You correct this by teaching the dog that cats are no longer prey items. This is done with a shock collar and obedience training. When you use a shock collar for this the intensity of the shock is as high as it can go. This falls under the category of one or two good corrections are better than 1000 nagging corrections.

Take the dog out on a long line in an area where there are cats. Watch the dog closely. The instant the dog goes for a cat, shock it. It's not necessary to say anything, in fact it's better not to. The dog must learn on it's own that cats are no longer fun to chase. We do not want the dog to think that you are part of this process. If it thinks that then it may think that it can get away with chasing a cat when you are not present. Whereas if you do this work without saying a word, it does not matter if you are there or not.

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**Basic Dog Obedience**

**\$40.00** +s&h



**4 Hours Long**

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### **Question on Introducing Cats to Dogs:**

Dear Mr. Leerburg,

I found your article on Introducing a dog and



cat, but I need a little advice if possible. I have an 18 year old cat and last year we rescued a lovely golden lab/Husky puppy. She is now one year old. We have been working on training which has been very difficult because she came from a home where she was tied up and never shown any attention because she is too energetic and the child became afraid of her size and energy. So we have been trying to teach the basics and to show a lot of love and attention. For the last month or so she has been allowed in the house with us at night, and we have not really had any problems with the two (the cat just ignores her, unless she starts to get too active and then she wants to play) and she just lays down on her blanket and chews on her bone, Then the last two days, she has tried to attack the cat twice, luckily we were very close and we were able to avoid any problems and she is following every movement of the cat making me think that she is stalking the cat. We are both nervous now and we do not let her inside and this makes us feel bad because we liked to have her inside (especially since my husband works nights).

I am asking you if you could recommend something that we could do as we do not want her to become jealous of the cat being indoors and her out.

I hope that you can give us some advice as we do not want to alienate her for much longer causing more harm than good.

Sincerely,  
Khrystina

**Answer:**

If you read my article you should know the answer – this process involves a dog crate. If the dog is in the crate it cannot attack the cat.

Also if the dog is properly trained it will do a down stay on the rug when the cat is out (this is only after a month or so in the crate)

This is a handler problem not a dog problem

If you would like to learn more about the principles of obedience training a dog, read the description for my Basic Dog Obedience video (<http://leerburg.com/302.htm>) you will probably find that you have not had the full picture on the steps of training a dog must go through before it can be considered fully trained. You can also read why I am not a fan of taking an untrained dog to obedience classes. Get this tape and a prong collar. If you do not have a prong, we also sell those on our web site at <http://www.leerburg.com/prong.htm>

If you do not have experience with a prong collar I have written an article on my web site that explains how to fit a collar, and how to put it on. You can find this at <http://leerburg.com/fit-prong.htm>

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## Question on Introducing Cats to Dogs:

Hello Mr. Frawley,

My name is Suzanne. I first of all wanted to tell you how much I really like your website. It has been a tremendous help to me. I ordered your Basic Training DVD. I also followed your advice on one of your web pages and bought a Prong Collar and an Electric Shock Collar.

The page of the most interest to me is your page on "Introducing dogs into homes with cats". Our family includes 3 dogs: a Corgi, a Samoyed, and an Alaskan Malamute. We also have a full grown grouchy male cat, which my dogs have never harmed. Then we got 2 new kittens, and although our Corgi and Samoyed accepted them, our Malamute killed one of them. Our entire family, especially our children, was heart-broken and I was desperate.

I turned to the Breeder that I bought our Malamute, Kodiak, from but she had no suggestions.

Then I found your website. I followed everything you said to do to the letter. And I have been experiencing a LOT of success with Kodiak. It's been only about a month so far. I only had to shock him (which I hated to do, but felt I had to) about 4 or 5 times. After that, he stopped snapping at or trying to bite the cats. He is still very supervised around the cats. He wears his

prong collar and he's on a leash. He also wears his electric collar, although I haven't had to shock him in weeks. He is still in his muzzle. I don't yet trust him completely around the cats. Not at all. But I feel very hopeful. Like you said, it takes time and consistency.

I'm sorry for all these details.....but I am really in need of some form of reassurance from you. On your website, you said that training dogs is NOT breed specific, which really had me feeling very relieved.

Then this morning I e-mailed the breeder that we bought Kodiak from, telling her about our good progress. She wrote me back quite upset that I would use a shock collar on my dog. She also said that you don't seem to know anything about Alaskan Malamutes, because they have a much stronger prey instinct than German Shepherds, and most other dogs. Sigh. She also said that she strongly doubts that I will ever have total success with Kodiak and cats.

She was also upset at me for "sending Kodiak mixed signals."

Here's what I have done: When he only sniffs at the cats as they walk by, and then comes back to me submissively, placing his head on my lap, I praise him lavishly and give him a treat. I am trying to tell him how pleased I am with him for not snapping at the cats and for only sniffing them politely.

The breeder is upset, telling me that I am sending him mixed signals, and confusing him, because of his natural instincts.

PLEASE, PLEASE, please, Mr. Frawley, could you possibly reply to this e-mail? I am so hoping that you can offer me some sort of reassurance about this problem and some sort of hope. All our dogs and all our cats mean a lot to me, my children and even my husband. I know I've made some mistakes as a dog owner, and hopefully you won't write me back telling me that I ought not to be one! But, I'm honestly trying.

Thanks in advance for your reply and your time.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Tye

**Answer:**

I have bred over 340 litters of working bloodline GSDs and produced training videos for 25 years.

I have this saying:

You need to be careful about who you listen to on training your dog. "Everyone has an opinion on how to train your dog – just ask your mailman, your neighbor, your hair dresser or barber, or your best friend – the problem is that very few people have the experience to back up their opinions which results in a lot of bad information being handed out."

Your breeder falls right into the middle of this category. Please send this on to her or him.

Dog training is not breed specific – its temperament and drive specific.

You have done the right thing. Put the shock collar on this dog and use it. Every time the dog even looks at a cat it should get a NICK – I am serious here – he is shocked for looking at the cat. Fact is you do not have to say anything when you do this. Just nick him.

I have written about how to take 2 weeks of putting the collar on and taking it off 4 or 5 times a day – so the act of putting the collar on the dog means nothing to it - the collar going on cannot be a trigger in the dog's mind.

Good luck

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## **Dealing With Dominant and Aggressive Dogs**

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## **Question on Introducing Cats to Dogs:**

My husband recently rescued a puppy that looks to be mostly Golden Retriever. She is about 6 months old - they guess and weighs not quite 50 pounds. He has not been training her as well as he should - but I'm going to remedy that. He and I don't currently live together and until this week (I'm puppy sitting because he is out of town) I did not realize how well she wasn't trained (or rather how well my husband isn't trained). She may end up moving in with me so that she gets trained properly.

During the week, we have made great progress. She is listening well and will stay for about a minute and is learning leave it - although leaving hot dog chunks is a bit tough for her still. On the flip side though - when my oldest cat ventured into the kitchen along with the puppy - leave it worked incredibly well. I managed to get her to sit, down and stay hoping the kitty would have a chance to sniff the puppy. The stay was short lived - but the leave it worked pretty well. She did end up chasing kitty down the hall - but the cat at least got a head start.

My cats (8 and 9 years old and weigh about 8-9 pounds each) were raised with a Belgian Terv. They weren't afraid of dogs at all until my husbands Great Dane entered the picture. He had aggression issues and literally tried to eat

them on numerous occasions. The kitties now are obviously a little scared of dogs.

Our puppy is very playful. Her head will be down, butt up, tail wagging - but the cats just run and hide. One hasn't come out of my bedroom all week. I put up a baby gate so they could see the puppy and venture out if they wanted - but they really aren't. I have put the puppy in her crate and brought the kitties into the room so that they could sniff her - they just turn and run.

Do I need to modify the puppy's behavior in any way so that the cats are more likely to come out of my room and investigate her? I love my cats, but I'm tired of their food being in there. The youngest of the cats would starve before coming out - the Dane picked on her more because she is so timid.

I think the puppy just wants to play with them - her actions seem playful - I think. It's probably more of a cat issue - but I want to make sure that I do things right since they will eventually live together all the time.

Thanks for the help!

Katrina.

**Answer:**

What happened with the Dane should NEVER have gotten to the extent that it did. That dog should have been dealt with severely for even



looking at the cats, much less trying to eat them.

The result of the Dane not being dealt with is a couple of cats with serious dog issues... would you want to go near something that had tried to eat you in the past?? This is not the cats' fault, yet they are the ones suffering.

Sometimes cats and dogs just can't be together. If you don't like the cat food being in your room, find another room where the cats can feel safe away from the puppy. The puppy may not be aggressive, but the cats are gun shy. Even a bouncing puppy is threatening to them. They may come around, and they may not.

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### **Question on Introducing Cats to Dogs:**

I have a 3 yr old red-nose pit, and a 3 month old kitten. They play with each other and eat and drink out of each others dishes. What signs, if any, should I look out for if the dog gets angry at the cat? Is it a good idea to have them both in the same house? The pit snapped at the cat when my wife gave the kitten her plate to eat off of and the dog didn't like that one bit. Any advice will be appreciated.

### **Answer:**

Food, toys and affection are triggers for a fight.  
**DO NOT FEED THESE TWO TOGETHER** - the dog

will eventually kill the cat. ALWAYS pet the dog before you pet the cat. The dog must know it's a higher member of the family pack.

---

### **Comment on Introducing Cats to Dogs:**

Hi ED

I read your "Introducing dogs into home with cats' report online and you supply excellent information for pet owners and animal lovers. But I am concerned about the foolishness of some cat owners who bring dogs into their cats' lives and make them miserable and put the cats' lives at risk in some occasions. One woman told you she brought a 2 and half old male German Shepard/ Doberman mix into a house with cats and kittens. OMG! Reading that I wanted to scream! It's no wonder 2 of the kittens were killed by this dog. And another person wrote to you about how her 8 month old German Shepard has a slight problem of killing cats and enjoying doing so. Huh? Is this woman for real? Slight problem? It's sad she thinks her young dog killing lots of cats is a slight problem. When her dog kills the wrong person's cat it might be a big problem for her and the dog. She says her 8 month old female dog Sasha is already a cat killer and gets a thrill out of it? How would the dog's owner know that unless she's watching her young dog kill these cats or is siccing her dog on them? Her letter to you was very upsetting to me an avid animal and cat lover

who is sick of cats being abused and targets for dogs and people. When that dog is 2 or 3 years old it might have killed 20 or 30 cats or more if it's already killed several by 8 months old. I don't really blame the dog for killing cats but I blame the dog owners for allowing it unless the cat comes in their yard and gets caught by the dog. I wonder if her dog is killing stray cats or pet cats. Sadly stray cats are seen as fair game by some people but when this dog kills many pet cats she has hurt many families and put the health of her own dog at risk for people who want revenge. I hope the owner gets a grip on this dog before it becomes serial cat killer and possibly attacks a child playing with a cat in their yard. That is a distinct possibility for a dog who has acquired a taste of killing cats and loves doing it.

And I read online recently of a woman who had a Jack Russell Terrier and a couple of cats. She wanted a kitten and kept the kitten in the basement. But her JRT got into the basement and killed the kitten and she was all upset. But what did she think would happen when they were alone? I hate that cats and kittens are put at such risk by negligent dog owners like Sasha's owner. And then you have the cat owners who make the mistake of bringing a dog into a home with cats and kittens and not knowing how to introduce the dogs to the cats. Ed, I hope your advice reaches as many people as possible because so many pet owners need your advice because they

are putting the welfare of their cats and kittens at risk by bringing a dog home and just thinking they will get along fine without the proper introduction. Keep up the good work.

I like what I've read of your info online. I only wish you could get to these people before they turn their cats lives upside down.

Scott

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### **Question on Introducing Cats to Dogs:**

Dear Ed,

We have a cat that lives outdoors most of the year. When it is really cold we bring him in. Our 8-mo old GSD is always very interested in the cat, however the cat never lets her get to close. The cat is really the only thing the puppy will not pounce on.

Tonight while the cat was in, the pup was tormenting him. I told puppy no twice, and then came up behind her to physically remove her from the area. I think I startled puppy, and she snapped at me. In that moment I wasn't real sure what to do, but I knew I had to let her know this was not permitted. (She has never done this, and is generally very obedient) I grabbed her by her Leerburg prong collar and took her to her crate. I know the crate is not supposed to be associated

with punishment, but I really don't know what else I could have done. What would you say? Thanks for your input. Your website has been a great asset, and I really like Leerburg's products.

Tami

**Answer:**

This is an owner mistake - you should be using a DOG CRATE - when the two get too wild - you pick up the pup and put it in his crate. You should be using the crate all the time - also putting the pup in the crate is not punishment, it's the place you put him whenever you want and for whatever reason you want.

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**Question on Introducing Cats to Dogs:**

Hi Mr.Frawley,

I was just on your website and am very impressed with the breadth of your knowledge about dog training. I saw that people write to you with pet questions and concerns and I'm hoping you'll be kind enough to give me some advice.

I have a 2 and 1/2 year old female Miniature Pinscher who is home alone all day while I'm at work. When I had more money, I used to send her to doggie daycare a few days a week, but these days I just can't afford it. I'm sure she misses the

activity and companionship that she received in day care and she really loved the man who ran the business. I'd really like to get my dog some companionship and I was thinking about adopting an adult cat. My dog has stayed in other homes with cats before without any problems. However, she is used to being the queen of the castle in my apt. and is fairly jealous. If I stop by to visit her at her doggy daycare and I pet any other dogs, she tries to get in between me and the other dog and must have my attention immediately.

My intention in adopting an older cat is to give a good home to a cat that may be harder to place and also so that the two animals can have companionship when I'm at work all day. My concern is my dog will be too jealous and feel displaced. Maybe she's fine and I'm just worrying too much about her. Her temperament hasn't really changed, but she does knock over the garbage can on nights when I get home a little later than usual.

Any insight you can provide would really be appreciated. Thanks in advance for your help!

Joanna

**Answer:**

It's a nice thought you have about rescuing an older cat. The only problem is that it is harder for an older cat to adjust to a dog. Kittens tend to

spit and hiss for a while, but eventually learn to ignore the dog. An older cat has issues that you might not know about until you get it home, and then it is too late.

My secretary tried to bring an older cat into her home with very “cat friendly” dogs, and it did not go well. The cat would actually attack the dogs (Labs) and urinate on their beds. She found the cat another home, and got a kitten.

---

Dear Sir,

I would like to commend you on your excellent, informative website. I have studied your Q and A section and don't think my question has been asked previously. If there is a similar one I apologize for the repetition. I am wondering if you could give me some advice to solve a problem we have with our jealous dog. The Dog, Ruben is a 6yo mongrel (probably kelpie / staffie cross). He was adopted from a shelter by my brother a few years ago. He is extremely well trained, adores people and knows his place at the bottom of the pecking order, (just above our cat). Sully our 3yo cat is very playful and outgoing. The pets have been living in the same house for just over a year, and in general the dog simply ignores the cat and they live harmoniously, however we do have one problem. When the cat approaches people, particularly when he shows affection or wants to sit on someone's lap, Ruben rushes over

and tries to herd the cat away from the person. He often puts his head down and gives the cat a menacing look out of the corner of his eye. The cat then usually moves away to sit by himself, and the dog goes back to whatever he was doing. Sully (the cat) has leukemia, so I would like to stop Rubens jealous behavior before Sully's health declines, as at times when he is unwell the bullying is too much for him and he gets really down and reclusive. They are lovely, smart, and otherwise extremely obedient pets. I would really appreciate any help you can give me.

Thank you for your time.

Bronwen Jones.

### **Ed's Answer to the dog and cat problem**

This is the beginning signs of dominance. You should control how you pet your pets. Always pet the dog first - but make him sit or lay down before you pet it. Then pet the cat. If the dog tries to but in - PUSH THE DOG AWAY WITH A NO!!!! COMMAND. Make it clear that this is unacceptable behavior. When done petting the cat - call the dog to you (MAKE HIM DO SOMETHING -every dog needs to do something to earn praise) A dog that demands praise is a dominant dog. He is telling you to groom him and pretty soon he will DEMAND that you groom him if you don't nip it in the bud.

The bottom line is this dog needs my [Basic Dog](#)



[Obedience Program](#) because this is one of the beginning signs of dominance.

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Mr. Leerburg

Hello. We currently have a 3year old male, neutered Bengal cat. He has quite a predatory nature. We have just introduced an 8week old cavalier king Charles to the home. When we try to introduce the two the Bengal tries to go for the puppy's neck and tries to put the neck in his mouth. As you can imagine it is pretty scary for us as we do not know how far the cat would take it if we were to allow it to continue, this I assure you we would not let happen. We never allow them to be together alone and at present we put them in two different rooms with a glass door in between so that they can get used to each other but I feel that this will not improve the situation. Can you please give us some advice as we are quite concerned to what the Bengal might do?

Regards  
Rebecca

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Hi,

Just started poking around your site & wanted to let you know I plan to spend a lot more time there. I grew up with GSDs & in 1991, after I was married & out of the folks' house, we got our

own GSD puppy. Back then it was still “yank & crank,” but he still turned out to be a great dog. He passed on in 2003 from a rapidly growing tumor on his spleen and in 2004 we bought another GS pup. When I looked into training I found everything had switched to this “happy happy click click” method. I gave it a try & in some regards it’s very nice, but not so effective when you have a biting puppy with a mouth like a steel trap or an adolescent dog who has discovered that it’s fun to chase deer! Anyway..... it’s reassuring to see that there are professionals who believe in the middle ground.

I’m sad to report that our 2004 pup, Otto, died in June at 17 months of age from mesenteric torsion - what a traumatic experience for all of us. The breeder “replaced” him with, Hauser, a completely unrelated pup out of all import lines & I can’t believe the difference in the 2. This little fellow (almost 9 weeks old now) is going to be a lot more challenging for us and I’m sure I will be referring back to your site time & time again.

Now for the question: We also have 2 small female cats who are 11 & 1/2 years old. In the 15 months Otto lived with us we failed to ever properly acquaint them. The cats are extremely shy & refused to be in the same room with him. The same is true with Hauser. Even if he’s sound asleep they will run and hide if they realize he’s anywhere near them. The cats are generally out

all day & are called in each night before dark (yes, they are trained cats!). The puppy is only allowed in certain areas of the house but the cats have free run of the place. This situation frightens me as it will be only a matter of time before something really bad happens. Any suggestions? Even if I can't make the cats accept the puppy, he must learn in no uncertain terms that they are also part of his pack and absolutely off limits in terms of chasing & biting (or worse). But I don't want to create a situation that will make him jealous or resentful towards them. Help!

Thanks much.  
Cathy Kowalski

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Dear Ed,

My name is Geoff Waite. I have a situation with my pets which is not good. I own a 4 year old Irish Setter (Jenny) I also own a 6 year old female cat named Buster and then there is Benney a 3 year old Tom Cat. I had Benny neutered 3 months ago. Since then he has become a stay around the house cat, living outside and sleeps in our garage. He follows me everywhere. We are the best of friends. Like a little dog. Well today I brought home a new puppy (Bucky). A nine week old Weimaraner. Just adorable. Well I had Bucky on the lawn and was getting to know him when my tom cat Benney arrived. I was between them trying not to let Benney get too close. All

of the sudden Benney side stepped me and took a swipe at the puppy, striking him on the ear. Then Benney just went nuts in aggression. On his next attack I was able to boot him out of the way. I looked back to grab the puppy and he was gone, running across the yard. Benney the tom cat was on him before I could get to him and rolled him. Puppy crying all the while. I finally grabbed the puppy and Benney attacked him in my arms. He missed him with his claws, but I received the scratches. Benney was so aggressive that he looked like a small Bobcat on the attack. I have never experienced behavior like this in all my years of owning dogs and cat. Before I had Benney neutered, he ran the neighborhood and was gone days at a time. He would come in all beat up cut, scratched and bitten. This would happen time and time again. So needless to say his is a fighter. Could you please advise me on how to proceed with this transition? Any help would be most appreciated.

I thank you,  
Sincerely, Geoff Waite  
Scottsbluff, NE

### **Ed's Comments:**

This is not a common situation. With this said it may be time to give this cat some crate time. He may not like it but tough!! If he is going to be an ass he will have to be controlled. The unfortunate thing is that this pup will probably always hate cats.

---

Hello again,

Well, we have our Bichon now. Yesterday he arrived late in the day. The cat was in the back laundry room behind a glass door with blinds. The dog did eventually see the cat through the glass (while on his leash) and yup, he barked like crazy. We pulled him away from the door, told him to sit. When it was time for a walk, he barked at other dogs. He seems to get quite upset. My kids and I told him to SIT in a very firm voice, and he did, but it was a stressful experience. I was advised that spraying him directly in the face with a water bottle should work for this behavior. He obviously knows certain things, like sit, and he is otherwise a very calm dog. In the house he is quite cute and friendly and does not bark at all. I have read much of what you have written and I understand this is pack behavior. I have the water bottle ready and I am hopeful it will work. My 10 year old son and I had a long talk last night about the cat and that right now the important thing is making sure both animals are safe. And by the way, the dogs who are getting barked at do not bark back. It is a little embarrassing to have our dog so out of control in public. I am determined to fix this.

Thanks for your excellent advise once again and I hope we'll have a better day today. We haven't even had him for 24 hours, so I think there is hope.

Best,  
Alicia

### **Ed's comment on new dog in home with cat**

You need to get a dog crate and use it. By not having a dog crate you only increase the problems you will have with your new dog.

---

Hello:

I've adopted a four year old German Shepherd/Norwegian elkhound cross. She's a beautiful dog, attentive and obedient, a very good listener. One of the reasons I chose her is because I have cats and this dog, I was told at the shelter, is very good around cats. I have found this to be totally true; she doesn't lunge at the cats, is very calm around them and doesn't even pay them that much attention.

The problem is not with the dog but with one of my cats. My two older females have already adjusted to her. One of them hisses at the dog a little but she does not seem too stressed and is already back into her regular routine of sleeping on the corner of the desk in my home office, while the dogs sleeps on her designated bed in the same room.

My male cat on the other hand is showing an alarming amount of aggression. He is otherwise

and has always been a very laid-back kind of guy but is not taking well to the dog. I have to keep them apart in the house. Do you have suggestions as to how to introduce them gradually to each other? I particularly don't want to have the dog experience a traumatic beginning in this house and would like this dog to have as positive as possible a transition into this household.

Regards, Patricia

### **Ed's Answer on a cat that is aggressive to dogs**

The training is the same for the cat. The cat needs to learn that the dog is now part of the home. If it gets aggressive it needs to be corrected - just like a dog is corrected.

---

Hello Mr. Frawley,

I enjoyed your article and all the advice you've offered others. My girlfriend and I considering adding a former dog of mine, a 6-year-old female airedale-aussie mix, to our home where we've lived for about a year. Shortly after we moved in, we brought in a male cat that was rescued by a friend of animals (who had dogs in the house). The cat has grown to become a healthy 2-year-old. He is playful and friendly to people and has access to the whole house.

The dog hasn't lived with me for at least three years, but remembers me. She has quite a bark

and tends to bark at visitors loudly. Good watch dog. The dog was quite skittish as a youngster, and appeared to have suffered abuse as a pup. She was abandoned at a kennel so we (former girlfriend and myself) rescued her. The dog is better now that his current owner (former gf) added an electric collar to the training. My current girlfriend and I are comfortable with that. The dog seems much better balanced.

Anyway, the dog's not aggressive, but is a medium sized animal with big feet. The cat growled quite a bit when they first met here at the house. We didn't correct the cat at the time. I suppose we will next time the dog visits. We typically squirt him with water. I'm hoping that works well enough. Or do you really like the cans with rocks in them?

Also, and this is my key question, is house size an issue?

Our house is small. The cat stays inside. We have about 895 square feet. Cutting the bedroom out of the dog's life is a significant thing... though I completely agree with your reasoning. But it's just about the biggest room in the house. The yard is 2/3 an acre and plenty for a good run on a line. The cat sleeps on our bed when we're out, and occasionally on my girlfriend's feet. Would it work to keep the dog off the bed, but allow it into the bedroom?



I'm basically concerned about space. Are dogs and cats harder to merge in a tiny house? I'm just terrified that we'll come home one day and find the cat dead. My girlfriend had to put down her last cat right before we moved, and that was terribly difficult on both of us.

-Doug

### **Ed's Answer on adding a 6 year old dog back into the house with a cat**

Doug,

The size of the house is not important. How you choose to live with this dog is very important.

Read the article I wrote on how to introduce a dog into a home with cats. You can find these if you go to the list of training articles and scroll down. <http://leerburg.com/articles.htm>

I would never train a dog again without a remote collar. Once you learn the concept of low level stimulation training you will understand why I say this. [Here is a DVD I just finished last fall](http://leerburg.com/318.htm)  
<http://leerburg.com/318.htm>

If you are serious about making this thing work, start this dog at the very beginning of training. Assume it knows NOTHING and start again. When I get a fully trained import from Europe I take that approach. Then the dog learns what I expect - the training goes fast but the foundation is there between me and the dog. [Here is the DVD on that](http://leerburg.com/302.htm)  
<http://leerburg.com/302.htm>

Here are some articles you should study:

You should read the article I wrote on [GROUNDWORK TO BECOMING A PACK LEADER](http://leerburg.com/groundwork.htm). <http://leerburg.com/groundwork.htm>. This is how I would handle the dog with the cat when the dog is not in a crate.

I would recommend that you read the article I wrote titled [THE THEORY OF CORRECTIONS IN DOG TRAINING](#)

Also read:

[Training with Markers](#)

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Good morning-

I am hooked on your website that I just learned of last week. I have a good question. I have a 5 year old German Shepherd/Border collie and (2) cats

(all rescued). They get along fine. Lived together here for the last (two+ years together). We just adopted a German Shepherd (possibly Chow, etc. MIX at almost 4 months and doing pretty good BUT he wants to chase the cats and they are pretty terrified until they don't hear him trotting around. Do you have any advice or videos/DVDs on this particular issue? I figured if my dog can accept (2) cats and it's a "dream" relationship, a puppy would be easier, dumb mistake. Do you think I can make this work or was this a BIG mistake? He really is a smartie. Not to mention adorable. Trouble is I am not a great trainer. I just want them all to get along. Would appreciate any feedback. Thanks so much.

Judy

**Ed's Answer:**

Yep – a big mistake.

You are not handling this situation correctly.

I wrote an article on how to introduce a dog into a home with cats. You can find the list of 300 or so training article I have written at <http://leerburg.com/articles.htm>

I also wrote an article titled THE GROUND WORK TO BECOMING YOUR PUPPIES PACK LEADER.

If this were my pup it would never be allowed around the older dog until I had it 100% obedience trained. If you cannot control the pup

when it is loose (and the cats and other dog are put away) how do you think you are going to control it when the cats and other dog are out?

I recommend that you get the 4 ½ hour DVD I did on my [Basic Obedience program](#). The URL for the DVD is <http://leerburg.com/302.htm>.

You will probably find that you have not had the full picture on the training steps for training your dog. A dog must go through training steps before it can be considered fully trained.

When you read the description of the DVD on my web site you will find out why I am not a fan of taking an untrained dog to obedience classes. No professional dog trainer would ever take his dog to an obedience class with 15 or 20 untrained dogs and try and train it there. Dogs cannot learn when faced with this kind of distraction.

If you read the testimonials on my DVD you will see that my customers feel the same way.

I also recommend that you read the article I recently wrote titled [THE THEORY OF CORRECTIONS IN DOG TRAINING](#)

While obedience training is not the solution to all behavioral issues it most definitely is part of the solution for every single behavioral problem.

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## The Theory of Corrections in Dog Training



Article

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### QUESTION:

I purchased a Belgian Malinois, Female, Age 4 in May of last year, after I was the victim of a violent home invasion. She is a great protector and stays right by my side. She will sit, stay, lay, heel from a distance, out on a bite suit (very well) she will retrieve like champ, she will refuse food from anyone but me, she dogs well with my kids and dogs. She will lay patiently by the door when someone knocks in a down stay, and is very attentive. She follows her guard command well, and her attack command also. She gets extremely excited to do these things..... So you're wondering WHY I'm emailing you!!!!!!!!!! She will NOT ignore a cat for the love of God nor money, she can't do it. I have used the E-collar over and over, and I wish the cat could turn around and be about 20 foot tall and kick her

tail ONCE, but we know that is not the case. Do you have any suggestions on working her with cats, or since she is very (cat & prey driven) is it hopeless?

Thanks in advance for you expertise.

**ANSWER:**

Sounds like a nice dog.

The dog needs correct use of the e-collar. It needs to be used at the highest setting and the dog needs to get stimulated for LOOKING at the cat – not chasing the cat.

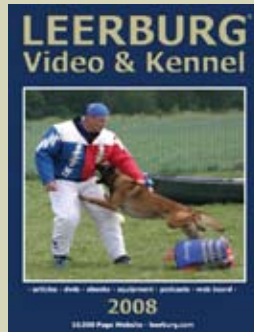
Use a crate for the cat in the living area. I assume you have a cat.

The dog wears the collar during the day. We crate our cats at night.

It comes down to a management issue.

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