

Introducing Your New Pet to Children

Family Matters

Few moments are more exciting than bringing a new pet home to eager children. It's often the beginning of a friendship that will create memories for years to come.

But just like any new relationship, it takes time, patience and understanding to grow.

At Amity, we believe that introducing a pet into your family isn't simply about teaching your pet to trust your children—it's equally about teaching your children how to understand and respect their newest family member.

That's why our purpose is simple: **Empower You Through Education.**

Start Calmly

The first few hours in a new home can feel overwhelming for any puppy or kitten.

Instead of lots of excitement, shouting and cuddles, allow your pet to explore quietly at their own pace.

Encourage children to sit on the floor and let the puppy or kitten approach them when they feel ready. This helps build trust from the very beginning.

Teach Respect

Children naturally want to hug, carry and play with their new friend.

However, pets aren't toys.

Teach children to stroke gently, avoid pulling tails or ears, and never disturb a pet that is eating, sleeping or resting.

Respecting these simple boundaries helps your pet feel safe and teaches children empathy and responsibility.

Always Supervise

No matter how gentle your pet or your children may be, young children should never be left unsupervised with an animal.

Supervision protects everyone and allows you to guide positive interactions before misunderstandings occur.

Remember, accidents are rarely caused by "bad" children or "bad" pets—they usually happen because one simply misunderstands the other.

Learn Their Language Together

One of the greatest gifts you can give your child is teaching them to recognise what their pet is communicating.

A wagging tail doesn't always mean a dog is happy.

A purring cat isn't always relaxed.

Learning to recognise signs of fear, excitement, stress and contentment helps children build a deeper relationship with their pet while keeping everyone safe.

Give Your Pet Somewhere to Escape

Every pet needs somewhere they can retreat when they've had enough.

Whether it's a crate, a quiet room or a high shelf for cats, this should always be a "no-go zone" for children.

Knowing they have a safe space helps pets relax and prevents them from becoming overwhelmed.

Growing Up Together

One of the greatest joys of pet ownership is watching children and pets grow together.

Children learn kindness, patience, responsibility and compassion.

Pets gain confidence, companionship and a family who loves them.

It's a relationship that benefits everyone.

A Lifetime of Memories

Years from now, your children probably won't remember which toys they received for birthdays.

But they'll remember the puppy who greeted them after school.

The kitten who curled up beside them when they were poorly.

The walks.

The games.

The cuddles.

These are the moments that become family memories.

By teaching both your children and your pet to understand one another, you're giving them the greatest chance of building a friendship that lasts a lifetime.

Because you're not simply introducing a pet to your children.

You're introducing a new member of the family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.