

During this season of love, we hope that every relationship is going great. Cats are wonderful companions to us humans and to other cats. When there is trouble in paradise between cats though, it can be stressful for everyone! Inter-cat relationships, which range from bonded companions to tense rivals, affect a lot of multi-cat households. Healthy bonds show mutual grooming, sleeping together, and gentle play, while tension involves staring, chasing, or fighting. Successful management includes gradual introductions, ample resources, and avoiding punishment.

**Signs of a Positive Relationship:**

Physical Contact: Sleeping together, touching, or mutual grooming

Greeting Behaviors: Rubbing against each other, nose-to-nose touches, and tails held high

Balanced Play: Reversible play, such as chasing where both cats take turns being the chaser and the chased

**Signs of Tension and Conflict:**

Body Language: Intense staring, stiff posture, hissing, or puffed fur

Aggression: Chasing, swatting, biting, or vocalizing

Avoidance: One cat hiding, fleeing, or restricting its movement to specific areas of the house

Resource Guarding: One cat blocking access to food, water, or litter boxes

**Managing and Improving Relationships:**

Gradual Reintroduction: If cats are fighting, separate them completely and reintroduce them slowly through scent swapping and visual exposure

Resource Management: Ensure "1+1" resources (one litterbox/bowl per cat, plus one extra) are placed in different, non-cornered locations to prevent guarding

Vertical Space: Use cat trees, shelving, and window perches to allow cats to share a room without being in direct physical contact

Environmental Enrichment: Use pheromone diffusers (e.g. Feliway) to reduce overall household stress

Never Punish: Yelling or hitting increases fear and anxiety, often worsening aggression

All relationships, like all cats, are different, so you may have to try different methods to help your kitties get along. And in some cases medication is needed on top of environmental enrichment so please talk to your veterinarian for



help!

Say no to lily flowers!



Mommarillo is up for adoption

