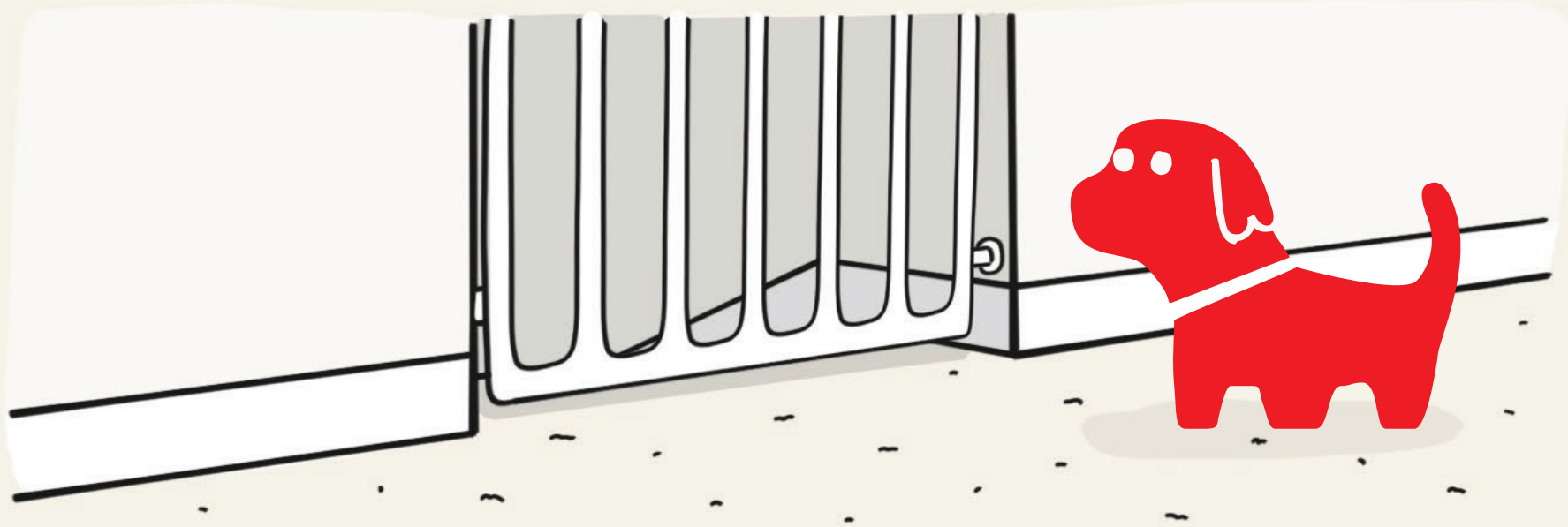




Building the Bond

Animals and children - those relationships can be tricky to get right. Follow our step by step guide and you'll be laying the foundations for one of the best relationships they'll ever have.



Step One: Get Organised

Before the little bundle of joy arrives – whether that's human, canine or feline, make sure that your home is safe and welcoming. Stair gates are a good idea to keep pets and babies apart when needed. Puppies might prefer a crate, which they can retreat to when they want to be alone. If your pet is already an established member of the household, now's the time to refresh their basic training – no jumping up, licking faces or stealing food.

Step Two: Stay Calm

It's an exciting moment, but you'll need to make sure that little people and little pets are rested, quiet and relaxed before they first meet. Sit on the floor and let the pet come to you to say hello. Give them plenty of space to explore and to escape if they need to. Avoid loud noises as these can be frightening. If they're a bit shy, show them a toy or a treat. If they feel safe, they'll want to meet you. Don't rush it and don't grab or force them....be patient! If your pet already knows you, make sure that you give them plenty of attention so that they don't get jealous of the new baby.



Step Three: Stroking

Once your new pet has sniffed you out and let you pick them up, you can let your baby stroke them – but very gently. Babies like to pat or squeeze, but animals don't like this at all. Teach your baby how to gently stroke the top of the head and along the back. Stay away from those irresistibly soft ears and tummies or tempting tails – they're sensitive areas so a pet may snap or growl if it feels under threat. If your baby or pets starts to get too excited, stop, give them time to calm down again and resume when the atmosphere's calm. There'll be plenty of time for giggles, chasing and tumbling once they trust one another.

Step Four: Privacy

It's rude to stare! Give pets their own bed, placed in a quiet spot where they won't be disturbed. Similarly, let them enjoy their food in peace. And litter trays need to be kept well away from children.



Step Five: Play Time

Playing together strengthens the bond. Start with simple games that both will enjoy, such as hiding a treat under one of three cups, then gradually make the games more challenging, like a high five or roll-over. As they grow older, encourage your child to think up games of their own and to learn more about pet body language and behaviour. And to avoid everyone getting over-tired and stressed, set aside time simply to be quiet and chill out.

The Golden Rule

Safety is more important than anything else, so never leave a baby and a pet alone together, even if you think they're getting on really well. The risk just isn't worth it.

We wish you health, happiness and a stress-free life, but if you ever have any concerns or questions about your pets, we'll always be here to help.



petcareteam

Want to know more about introducing your little one to your pets?

Whatever your questions,
we're always here to help.

Get in touch



