



Household Introductions

Resident Dog-to-Dog Intro

Dogs are social animals and most enjoy the company of other dogs, however, it can be tricky to introduce a new puppy or dog into the family. The resident dog may not be accustomed to having other dogs in his home or he may not appreciate having to share your attention, so set them both up for a successful interaction at the start of the relationship.



Preparation

Before you bring the new puppy or dog home, get two of everything and carefully manage resources; separate anything your resident dog might guard, especially beds, toys, food, and you! Even if your dog has never exhibited possessive tendencies before, it is best to exercise caution.

The Initial Meeting:

The dogs will need to meet on neutral ground, outside of the home. Bring the dogs together and allow them to greet each other - do your best to keep slack in the leashes so the dogs won't feel like they are being held back. Allow them to sniff and greet with as little tension as possible.

Bringing the New Dog Home

If you have a yard, go there first and let the dogs off leash to hang out while you supervise. This will let them get some energy out before being enclosed. When the dogs are ready, bring them into the house. If they got along well in the yard, let the resident dog off the leash first. Permit the new puppy or dog to explore the room on the leash, then give them a little break from one another.

Always supervise interactions between the dogs until they have been friendly with each other for one to two weeks. They should not be alone together before you feel confident in their relationship.

WHAT NOT TO DO:

- Do not put the dogs in small spaces together. Each dog should have his or her own food bowl, bed, and toys. Place the food bowls far apart until the dogs are relaxed when eating together.
- Do not give "high value treats" when dogs are together such as bones, stuffed Kongs, or bully sticks. The dogs can enjoy these fun chews but only when they are separated.
- If a fight breaks out, DO NOT let them "fight it out." Interrupt and separate the dogs if they begin to aggress. It is always better to interrupt fighting so the dogs do not develop a pattern.
- Do not use your hands or body to intervene during a dog quarrel. Use your voice, a loud noise or water to stop the fight as there is a chance a dog could injure you without meaning to.

Source: Content adapted from San Francisco Animal Care & Control

