



INTRODUCING YOUR NEW DOG TO YOUR RESIDENT DOG

There are many families that come to adopt who already have another dog at home. Here are some tips on how to introduce your dog to a new dog safely.

Make sure you choose a neutral location. Each dog should be handled by a separate person on leash. We recommend you take the dogs on a nice long walk together so they are able to become familiar with each other and drain off some energy. Once they are tolerating each other's presence without fear or aggression then you can take them inside. Once inside, we suggest keeping the leashes on the dogs and letting them drag. If you do have to intervene for any reason it is much safer to grab the dragging leash than the collar.

Use positive reinforcement. Help both dogs experience good things from the first meeting in each other's presence. Keep the meetings short and positive. During each break give the dog a command such as "sit" and follow with a yummy treat. If the dogs are left to meet on their own terms such as throwing them both into the yard to work things out, aggressive responses may occur. It is extremely important to monitor.

Be aware of body postures. One great body posture you want to see is a "play bow." This is when the dogs will crouch with their front legs on the ground and their hind ends in the air. This is an invitation for play. Be sure to watch carefully for postures that indicate an aggressive response such as showing teeth, deep growls, or an extended stare. If you see such postures you want to interrupt immediately by calmly getting each dog's attention and getting them interested in doing something else such as obeying a command.



There are times when you may need to seek professional help. The longer a problem goes on the harder it can be to resolve. Luckily, most dogs enjoy the company of another canine friend. Dogs can learn so much from other dogs that we cannot begin to teach them.

If you are looking to add another dog to your home we would love for you to come by and meet some of our adoptable dogs. We have trained staff that can help you find the perfect match!

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