



INTRODUCING YOUR DOG TO A NEW DOG

Bringing a second dog into your household can be a great way to keep your current dog company. However, it is very important to introduce your dogs properly in order to make the new change in your dog's life an easy transition.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS AND POSITIVE ASSOCIATIONS ARE CRUCIAL WHEN INTRODUCING YOUR NEW DOG

INTRODUCTION

- I. Make sure you leave your dog at home when you pick up your new dog.
- II. When you first introduce your dogs, do so in neutral territory. Keep the leashes loose during the introduction and don't force them to interact if they initially don't want to. This way your dog will be more likely to accept your new dog once you bring him inside.
- III. Keep the initial introductions brief and ask for some basic obedience cues in between to keep your dog focused on you.
- IV. When they seem to be comfortable with one another- meaning neither one seems to be fearful or threatened, you can begin the indoor acclimation process.

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INDOORS

- I. Make sure your dog's favorite toys are put away for the first week or so of living with your new dog. You don't want your new dog taking his toys and creating a rivalry and negative association.
- II. Make sure you confine your pets, so they have alone time and can eat, sleep and play in peace.
- III. All feedings should occur in separate rooms.
- IV. Don't leave your dogs home alone in the same room unsupervised.
- V. Consider confining your new dog and waiting for your first dog to approach the crate. When he seems curious, you can let your new dog out.
- VI. When your dogs are playing/interacting, make sure to make these interactions brief before they escalate to fights.
- VII. If you have a puppy, make sure you are correcting any behaviors that bother your older dog. If your puppy does not respond to your older dog's cut off signals, separate your dogs.
- VIII. Be sure to teach your puppy a proper Leave It and Come command to redirect his focus away from your older dog.

Remember that with all training **PATIENCE**, **CONSISTENCY**, and **REPETITION** are key!