

Tips for Adding Another Dog To Your Family

Before you bring your new dog home:

Make sure you have properly introduced your resident dog to your new dog or foster prior to bringing the new dog home.

Make sure all resources that could potentially cause conflict are put away—that includes dog beds, toys, bones, and food.

Remember your new dog needs to decompress. Make sure each dog has their own space, ideally a crate. They will need breaks from each other from time to time. The crates should be in separate rooms initially, to ensure the dogs get a true break from one another.

When you get home:

Do a parallel walk. There should be a handler for each dog: one handler should walk your resident dog, while the other handler brings the new dog into a fenced-in backyard or a large room. Avoid tight spaces, like doorways and stairwells.

Allow the dogs to meet. Supervise their interaction. Start off allowing short play and interaction sessions.



Supervision is a must.

If you can't supervise, separate the dogs using crates or baby gates. If arousal is getting too high, stop play.

Spend time with each dog individually, every day. This may include training, grooming, walking, running, playing, or snuggle time.

Feed the dogs separately and be aware of dog interactions in the kitchen.

Kitchen and eating areas can be a source of tension. Keep the dogs separated when cooking and during times when people are eating.

Separate your dogs in all high arousal situations.

For example, if your resident dog gets overly excited when your children come home from school, separate the dogs and have them in crates prior to your children arriving home.

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