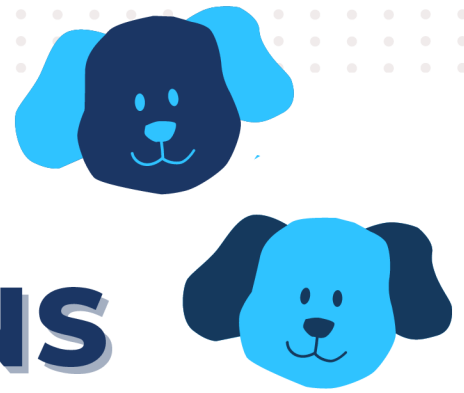


# A guide for DOG-TO-DOG INTRODUCTIONS



- **Before taking your new dog home, take your new dog for a walk at a park or around the block.** Bonding with your new pet is important before it meets other pets at your home.
- **After the walk with your dog, introduce your dogs to neutral territory (at a park or on a walk through your neighborhood).** This introduction should be performed in a relatively quiet area with minimal distractions. Make sure there are two humans present during the introduction. Please note: if your dogs meet in your house or yard, your resident dog may be protective of its home and therefore aggressive.
- **After the introduction, take your newly adopted dog and his new canine brother/sister on a walk together.** The dogs should walk side-by-side, but with a bit of distance between them. The walk should be positive and praising, and you should use a calming voice. Don't force interaction between the dogs. Also know that sniffing of feces and urine is an important exchange of information and energy between dogs, so allow both dogs to sniff areas after the other is done urinating/defecating and has walked away.
- **If the dogs seem calm while walking together, allow them to walk closer to one another.** Go slow and take your time, and make sure to pay attention to each dog's behavior. Once the dogs appear to be calm and comfortable with one another, they can now begin to sniff one another's backsides in a controlled manner for short intervals of time.
- **Once your dogs seem comfortable together and there are no signs of fearful or threatening behavior, you're ready to bring your new dog into your home.** Allow your new dog to enter first to check out the new place. Then, confine your new dog and allow your owned dog to enter the home.

## The first few weeks at home:

- Separating the dogs through a barrier like a baby gate will help them get to know one another while still maintaining a bit of separation. This also allows for an easy way to separate them if they are playing a little too hard.
- Monitor and pick up all toys, chews, and food bowls for the first weeks. Leaving these out can cause rivalry between the dogs. You can reintroduce these items once your dogs have started to develop a good relationship.
- Feed your dogs in separate areas. Don't forget to pick up the food bowls once meal time is over!
- Take regular walks with your dogs, this will help them get to know one another better.