

INTRODUCING DOGS TO DOGS

INITIAL INRODUCTION

Introduce the dogs on neutral territory. This is an area that your dog doesn't frequent or claim as their own territory.

Step 1: Take a walk! **DO NOT** let either dog greet each other right now. No sniffing, staring, barking. Start moving and make as much distance as you need to between the dogs so that both are calm.

Step 2: Once both dogs are acting less interested in each other you can start to walk closer together. Keep moving closer as long as everyone's body language stays loose and happy and both dogs are still relatively calm.

Step 3: They may briefly sniff nose to nose but continue walking. If either dog is frequently uncomfortable with other dogs keep this greeting brief.

PRO TIP

If one dog is more uncomfortable have them walk behind the more confident dog for a minute so they can smell without too much confrontation.



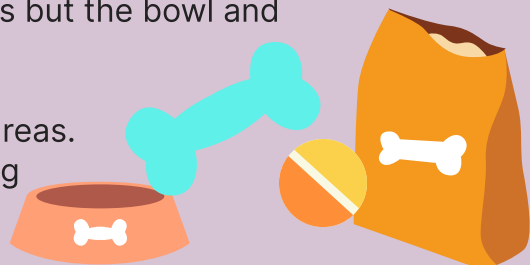
IN THE HOME

Once they're able to walk next to each other calmly they're ready to play and share a space together. Remember to monitor all interactions closely for the first few days. Interrupt any tense behavior by call the dogs away from each other.

TOYS AND TREATS

Remove toys from the equation for the first few days. Toys can become a huge trigger for negative feelings towards one another, especially with dogs who are not used to sharing their resources. **DO NOT** give any treats for a few days unless you can read dog body language. Many of our dogs will guard not only their meals themselves but the bowl and the area where you prepare their food.

Set your dogs up for success and keep them out of these areas. If they do enter these areas make sure they are not focusing on each other, if so call them away quickly.



When you do introduce toys make sure each dog respects the others personal space. Only very well known dogs should play tug with each other. If you see one dog trying to take another's toy give them another to play with instead. Keep a lot of toys out so that there are plenty of choices. As always monitor behavior closely at first.

RESOLVE CONFLICT

Sometimes stuff happens, we are human and as much as we can try to set our dogs up for success we can't avoid all negative interactions. The way that we handle these negative moments will make a bigger difference on your dogs lifelong feelings usually more than the negative interaction itself. Sometimes our dogs will growl, bark, snap, and unfortunately some may even fight with each other. If this happens **stay calm!**

- **Step 1:** Immediately **separate** all dogs and let everyone decompress for an hour or so. Put them in separate rooms or crates and let them nap. If they were fighting check everyone for injuries and seek treatment if necessary.
- **Step 2:** **Remove** whatever started the conflict, toy, treats, bed, etc.
- **Step 3:** After some time has passed and both dogs are calm and back to their normal selves we can **reintroduce** them. Do not throw them into a room together and expect them to be okay. Go for a walk, separate them with a baby gate, tether them near each other, etc. Allow them to learn how to coexist again together.

BEST FRIENDS

With a little time and patience both dogs will become the best of friends! Not all friends wrestle and play with each other. The best friendships and the ones with the least conflict are the calm ones, the dogs who like to just lay together in the sun or on the couch. **Strive for neutrality!**

