



THE DOGGY DIGEST

TRAINING TIPS BROUGHT TO YOU BY MUTTS WITH MANNERS

Introducing a New Dog with Success

Thinking about getting your dog a friend for Christmas? Follow these quick tips to set everyone up for success.

- 1. Get your dog used to sharing his space and toys.** Invite friends over who have well adjusted dogs and when you feel your dog is ready, have a sleep over. Keeping your friends dogs while they are on vacation not only prepares your dog for sharing his space, but also helps you get ready for managing multiple dogs.
- 2. Meet on neutral ground.** When you are ready to bring the new friend home, arrange with a friend or family member to meet in a nearby park. Your friend will bring the new companion, and you will bring your dog. This should be a location that you and your dog do not frequent.
- 3. Once the two dogs have met, begin your walk back to your house.** This walk should be 45-60 minutes at least, or when both dogs are tired. IF your dog is a high energy breed mix, tire him out before the introduction on neutral ground. Walking the dogs together will allow them to smell each other, look at each other without confrontation, and share space together with their people. It also helps expend mental and physical energy.
- 4. Crate and Rotate.** Once home, keep one dog crated while the other dog gets free range of the house. Ideally, this process should take one to two weeks. Use your judgment, in a lot of cases dogs do not need this part of the introduction process, but it is still recommended to do it for at least 3-5 days. It will give both dogs time to decompress and give you more walks together as a family where they can see each other and smell each other in a more structured way.
- 5. Put all toys away during the initial introduction process.** Bring toys down one at a time with supervision. This allows you the opportunity to see how the dogs interact with each other and the toys. Ideally, you want to begin with two toys that are the same, or of equal value. If you find one of the dogs having heightened excitement towards one of the toys, or guarding it in any way, remove that toy for now and introduce it later once the dogs have had time to get to know each other more.
- 6. One on one time.** Your dog has just had his space invaded, and the new dog has been completely uprooted, not only from his previous home, but also the chaotic environment of the shelter. Giving each dog one on one time will help your dog realize he is still special, and help the newer dog feel accepted and special as well. Begin holding short training sessions with each dog, individually first, and then together. This all breaks down very simply, 100% supervision, 100% consistency, 100% positive reinforcement, 100% of the time.

Most importantly, keep it pawsitive!