

A Safe Home for Everyone

Introducing a New Puppy or Dog to Your Home

A calm, well-planned introduction helps everyone feel safe, reduces stress and sets the foundation for a happy, lifelong relationship.

Patience
Creates
Friendships

Safe
Introductions
Happier Pets
Brighter
Futures



Different
personalities
Same chance
at happiness



1. Prepare Your Home

Set everyone up for success.

- ✓ Create separate spaces with their own beds, food and water.
- ✓ Remove high-value items (toys, chews, bones) during introductions.
- ✓ Ensure gates or barriers are available.
- ✓ Have a quiet, low-traffic area for the new dog to settle in.
- ✓ Make sure all dogs are up to date with vaccinations, flea/worm treatment and desexed (if age appropriate).



2. First Meeting on Neutral Ground

Keep it calm and controlled.

- ✓ Meet in a neutral location (e.g. a park).
- ✓ Both dogs should be on a lead.
- ✓ Allow them to sniff and observe each other at a comfortable distance.
- ✓ Keep the interaction short and positive.
- ✓ Look for relaxed body language – loose body, soft eyes, wagging tail.
- ✓ If either dog shows signs of stress, increase distance and try again later.



3. Controlled Home Introduction

Go slowly.

- ✓ Bring the new dog inside on a lead.
- ✓ Keep initial interactions short.
- ✓ Allow the resident dog to approach at their own pace.
- ✓ Avoid forcing interaction.
- ✓ Supervise closely at all times.
- ✓ Use baby gates or barriers if needed.
- ✓ Gradually increase time together as they both relax.



4. Read Their Body Language

Look for signs of comfort or stress.



Relaxed Signs

- Loose body posture
- Soft, wagging tail
- Play bow
- Sniffing calmly
- Showing curiosity
- Taking breaks



Stress Signs

- Stiff body
- Raised hackles
- Growling or snapping
- Lips curled
- Avoiding or hiding
- Excessive barking
- Fixed stare

Give them space if they need it



5. Keep Resources Separate

Prevent frustration and conflict.

- ✓ Provide separate food and water bowls.
- ✓ Feed in different rooms or behind barriers.
- ✓ Keep toys, chews and beds separate at first.
- ✓ Avoid giving high-value treats unless you can supervise.
- ✓ Only reintroduce shared items gradually once trust is built.



Happy dogs
share a home
not everything
at first



6. Give Them Time

Build trust at their own pace.

- ✓ Every dog is different – some may bond quickly, others take weeks or months.
- ✓ Keep interactions positive and relaxed.
- ✓ Provide plenty of rest and quiet time.
- ✓ Avoid overwhelming them with too much too soon.
- ✓ Be patient and let the relationship develop naturally.



Good things
take time



7. Manage Interactions Long-Term

Maintain a safe and happy home.

- ✓ Continue to supervise, especially during play.
- ✓ Be mindful of changes in behaviour.
- ✓ Provide individual attention to each dog.
- ✓ Ensure all dogs get regular exercise mental stimulation, starking.
- ✓ Maintain routines for feeding.
- ✓ Seek guidance if you have concerns.



Structure
brings security



8. Seek Professional Help if Needed

It's okay to ask for support.

- ✓ If you notice ongoing tension, fear or aggression, contact a qualified, force-free dog trainer or behaviourist.
- ✓ A veterinarian can also rule out any medical issues.
- ✓ Early intervention can prevent and keep everyone safe.



A little expert advice
can make a big difference.



9. A Happy Home for All

With the right approach, dogs can learn to live peacefully together.

- ✓ Respect their individual personalities.
- ✓ Celebrate small wins.
- ✓ Provide love, patience and consistency.
- ✓ Remember – a safe, happy home benefits everyone.



More paws
More love

