



Bringing A Dog Home When You Already Have One

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Introducing a new dog to your existing pup can be rewarding — but only when done right. Set the stage for a positive relationship by following some essential steps to keep tails wagging.

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Adding a second dog to your household can be a great experience — for both you and your current dog. But introductions must be handled with care to avoid territorial behavior or anxiety.

Step 1: Pick a Neutral Meeting Spot

- Choose an open, neutral space like a park or neighbor's yard.
- Keep both dogs on leashes, but loose enough to allow natural movement.
- Let them sniff and greet each other with minimal interference.

Step 2: Read Their Body Language

- Look for wagging tails, relaxed postures, and playful bows — good signs!
- Watch for stiff postures, raised hackles, growling, or avoidance — go slow.

Step 3: Short Parallel Walks

Walk the dogs side by side, allowing them to experience each other's presence without direct pressure. Gradually reduce the distance between them.

Step 4: Bring the New Dog Home

- Let your current dog enter the house first — it's their space.
- Keep toys, beds, and food bowls separate at first to avoid resource guarding.



- Use baby gates if needed to create safe zones and supervised interactions.

Step 5: Monitor and Be Patient

Establish a consistent routine and supervise play. Praise calm behavior and separate the dogs if tension rises. Some dogs bond instantly; others may need weeks to settle in.

Pro Tips

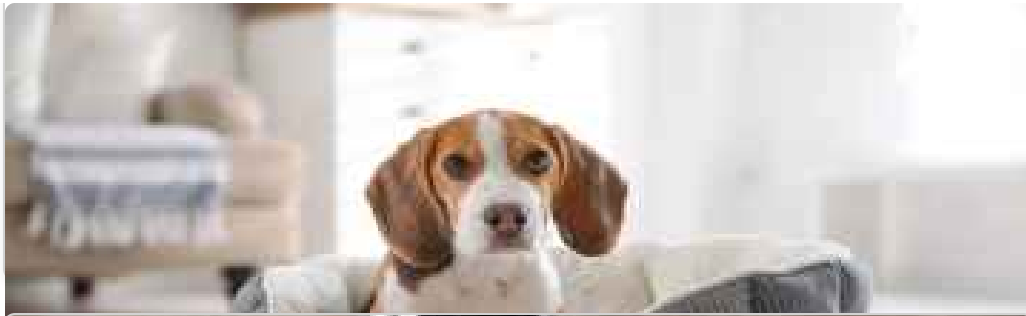
- Feed dogs in separate areas to avoid conflict.
- Give individual attention to both dogs to prevent jealousy.
- Use positive reinforcement (treats, praise) for polite behavior.

"Slow and steady wins the pack A thoughtful introduction lays the foundation for a strong canine friendship - or at the very least, peaceful cohabitation."

— Pawsitive Place Rescue

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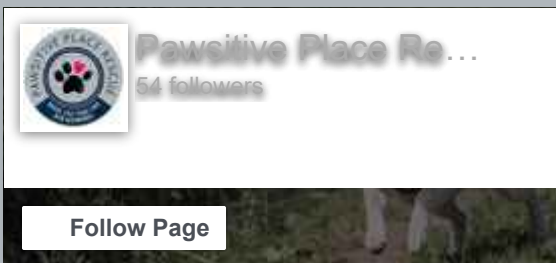


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