

SAFE DOG-DOG INTRODUCTIONS

Introducing your dog to another dog can be a wonderful experience when done safely and thoughtfully. However, it is important to take it slow when introducing new dogs to ensure the safety of everyone. Remember, every dog is different, and their reactions during introductions can vary. Safety should be the top priority, and it's important to be patient and cautious when introducing dogs. A successful introduction can lead to long-lasting friendships and harmonious relationships between your dogs.

FIRST STEPS

BE PATIENT: Introductions may take time. Do not rush the process, especially if one or both dogs appear uncomfortable.

CHOOSE A NEUTRAL LOCATION FOR THE MEETING: Opt for a neutral location, such as a park or a friend's backyard, that neither dog considers their territory for a first introduction. This helps eliminate potential guarding behavior and also keeps negative associations away from the home.

KEEP BOTH DOGS ON LEASH DURING THE INITIAL INTRODUCTION: This provides control and ensures that you can separate them if needed.

HAVE 2 SEPARATE HANDLERS: Ideally, each dog should have a separate handler to maintain control and provide support if necessary.

START WITH PARALLEL WALKS: Begin by walking the dogs parallel to each other at a distance. Gradually reduce the space between them, all the while monitoring their behavior.

PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO BODY LANGUAGE: Look for signs of stress, aggression, or nervousness. Positive signs include relaxed body postures and play bows. Negative signs include tucked tails, one trying to get away from the other, growling, lip licking, ears back.

REWARD: Reward both dogs for calm and positive behavior with treats and praise. This reinforces good behavior and encourages a positive association.

NEXT STEPS

ALLOW SNIFFING: Once both dogs seem relaxed, you can allow them to sniff each other briefly on leash.

SUPERVISED PLAYTIME: If both dogs appear comfortable, allow them to interact off-leash in a controlled environment. Keep a close eye on their interactions to ensure they play nicely.

>> SEPARATE IF NECESSARY: If any signs of tension arise, separate the dogs immediately. Do not scold or punish; simply redirect their attention and give them space.

HOME INTRODUCTION: If the dogs have had successful interactions, you can consider introducing them in your home. Make sure there are no valuable resources like toys or food around, as these can lead to conflicts.

MORE TIPS

ALWAYS SUPERVISE, NOT JUST DURING THE INTRO: Even after successful introductions, always supervise interactions between dogs. Dogs, like people, can have off days or conflicts.

ALWAYS FEED SEPARATELY: If you have multiple dogs in the household, feed them separately to avoid resource guarding issues.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO SEEK PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE: If you are concerned about your dogs' interactions or have any doubts, consult a professional dog trainer or behaviorist for guidance.