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The New Home and the New Dog

INTRODUCTION TO OTHER DOGS

Two dogs of the same gender CAN learn to get along with each other, however, it is much easier to introduce dogs of opposite gender. Here are the rules and procedure to doing this properly:

- Introduce them originally in a neutral place (park, lot, street, parking lot, etc...)
- Be slow in your process. You have your whole life to ensure you do this right.
- Keep both of the dogs on leash and do a quick 30 second nose to nose introduction. Do not allow the leashes to get twisted with each other. You want to be able to pull them apart quickly if they start something.
- Again, while on leash, allow one dog to sniff the other's hind quarters; if successful, allow the other to do the same. Dogs use their scent to record relationships (good or bad). It is important to ensure that all new experiences are GOOD. Interrupt all bad attitudes.
- Introduce them again, this time make it a full minute. Introduce them again, this time make it a 3-5 minutes intro. Do it again over a longer time.
- Never force dogs on each other.
- Correct any snarling or growling. Make sure they understand that YOU do not tolerate this behavior. You ARE the alpha leader, act it.
- Make sure the new dog is crated at night time, till your confidence level is high that the introductions have been successful.
- A pack will settle into itself if done properly. Allow some talking and settling between them.
- It will take a few days to sometimes a couple of weeks of work to get dogs to acclimate to the same pack. Be patient. These are new dogs to each other, and will therefore take time to get to enjoy each other.
- Dogs are social. Take them for walks on leash. They will focus on the walk rather than each other. But it will be hard for them to ignore each other. Relationships build through walks.
- If introducing them to other smaller pets like cats or very small dogs; make sure to correct any hard play as well. A small animal may not enjoy a large paw hitting them, even if it in play. If the new dog is a puppy, remember to interrupt the puppy, they are always wrong !!!
- Make sure to teach the new dog the rules of the house. Are the animals allowed on furniture? Our dogs have NEVER experienced a couch or bed, however, it will be easy to teach them to be a couch potato if that is what you like. We advise that you think this through before you teach an 80 lbs dog to share your couch or bed.
- Make sure to call us with questions if you struggle with any introductions. We can assist you with this homework (even if the issue is the original home dog).