

Helpful tips for Adopters

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Introducing Another Dog Into Your Home 🐾

Bringing a second dog into your household can be a joyful experience, but it requires careful planning to ensure harmony for both your new companion and your existing pet. Dogs thrive on routine and social cues, so a smooth introduction sets the stage for a happy, balanced home.

Preparing Before the Arrival

Assess compatibility: Consider your current dog's temperament, age, and energy level. A playful puppy may overwhelm an older, calmer dog, while two high-energy dogs might encourage each other into mischief.

Neutral territory: Plan the first meeting in a neutral space, such as a park or a friend's garden, to avoid territorial tension.

Supplies ready: Have separate food bowls, beds, and toys to prevent resource guarding.

The First Introduction

Controlled meeting: Keep both dogs on leads initially. Allow them to sniff and observe each other without pressure.

Positive reinforcement: Reward calm behaviour with treats and praise. This helps both dogs associate each other with good experiences.

Short sessions: Limit initial interactions, gradually increasing time together as they grow comfortable.

Settling Into the Home

- **Maintain routine:** Keep your resident dog's schedule consistent to reduce stress.
- **Supervised play:** Monitor interactions closely until you're confident they can be trusted together.
- **Individual attention:** Spend one-on-one time with each dog to prevent jealousy and strengthen your bond

Long-Term Harmony

- **Training together:** Group training sessions can build teamwork and reinforce good behaviour.
- **Respect individuality:** Each dog has its own personality. Celebrate their differences rather than expecting them to be identical.
- **Patience is key:** Adjustment takes time. Some dogs bond quickly, while others need weeks or months to feel secure



Guidance for Parents: Introducing a Strange Dog into Your Home with Children

Welcoming a dog into your home—whether it’s a new pet or a visitor’s dog—can be exciting, but it also requires careful planning when children are present. Dogs may feel uncertain in new environments, and children may not understand how to interact safely. Here are some key steps to help ensure a smooth and safe introduction:

1. Prepare the Environment

- Create a calm, quiet space for the dog away from high-traffic areas.
- Remove toys, food, or items that could trigger possessive behaviour.
- Have a leash or crate available so the dog feels secure and you maintain control.

2. Set Expectations with Children

- Explain to children that the dog may be nervous and needs space.
- Teach them to avoid sudden movements, loud noises, or rushing toward the dog.
- Remind them never to touch the dog while it’s eating, sleeping, or hiding.

3. First Introductions

- Keep the dog on a leash during the initial meeting.
- Allow the dog to approach children at its own pace—never force contact.
- Encourage children to stand still, let the dog sniff, and keep their hands low and calm.

4. Supervised Interaction

- Always supervise children when they are with the dog, especially in the early days.
- Guide children to use gentle strokes on the dog’s back or side, avoiding sensitive areas like the face or tail.
- Limit play sessions to short, positive experiences.

5. Teach Respectful Boundaries

- Show children how to recognize signs of stress in dogs (e.g., growling, backing away, ears pinned).
- Encourage children to step back if the dog seems uncomfortable.
- Reinforce that the dog is not a toy—it has feelings and needs rest.



6. Visiting Children

- Brief visiting children on the same rules before they meet the dog.
- Keep initial interactions short and structured.
- If the dog shows signs of stress, calmly remove it to its safe space.

7. Model Calm Behaviour

- Children learn by watching adults—stay calm and patient during introductions.
- Praise both the dog and the children for gentle, respectful behaviour.
- Celebrate small successes, like the dog calmly sitting near the children.

☀ Key Takeaway

The goal is to build trust—between the dog and the children—through patience, supervision, and respect. By setting clear boundaries and modelling calm interactions, parents can help children learn empathy and responsibility while ensuring the dog feels safe in its new environment.



Pennypaws Rescue – Just For Kids!



☀️ First Day Together

- Stay calm and quiet: Loud noises or running around might scare the dog. Use gentle voices.
- Let the dog come to you: Sit still and allow the dog to sniff and explore. Don't rush to hug or grab them.
- Respect their space: If the dog goes to their bed or crate, that's their "safe zone." Don't disturb them there.



👋 How to Say Hello

- Offer your hand slowly: Hold it out for the dog to sniff, but don't push it toward them.
- Pet gently: Stroke their back or side, not their face or tail.
- Ask an adult first: Always check with a grown-up before touching the dog.

🍽️ Mealtime Rules

- Never touch their food or bowl while they're eating.
- Give them space: Dogs like to eat in peace, just like people do.

🎲 Playtime Fun

- Use toys, not hands: Play fetch or tug with dog toys, not your fingers.
- Take breaks: Dogs can get tired or overstimulated. If they walk away, let them rest.
- Be gentle: No pulling tails, ears, or fur.

🇸🇬 Ongoing Good Habits

- Routine helps: Dogs feel safe when things happen at the same time each day (walks, meals).
- Kindness counts: Always treat the dog with respect.
- Listen to signals: If the dog growls, hides, or looks uncomfortable, give them space.

💡 Remember

A dog is learning about you just as you're learning about them. With patience, kindness, and gentle behaviour, you'll build trust and friendship that lasts a lifetime.

Pennypaws Rescue – the funny side



The Romanian Arrival: A Dog's Tale

I am from Romania. Yes, the land of Dracula, cabbage rolls, and stray dogs with street smarts sharper than a squirrel's teeth. I've crossed borders, oceans, and the occasional questionable sandwich to arrive here. And now, the door swings open to my new kingdom.

Inside, there is... another dog.

- **First Impressions** He stares at me like I'm a foreign exchange student who just walked into his classroom. His tail does the cautious wag—half friendly, half “I'm watching you, buddy.” I respond with my best Romanian sniff. It's like a handshake, but with more nose and less dignity.
- **The Cultural Exchange** He shows me the sofa. I show him how to dig an escape tunnel under the fence. He demonstrates the art of begging for biscuits. I demonstrate the art of stealing biscuits without begging. Together, we are unstoppable.
- **The Language Barrier** He barks in English. I bark in Romanian. At first, it's chaos. But soon we discover that “woof” is universal. Also, the sound of the treat jar opening transcends all languages.
- **The Power Struggle** He thinks he's the alpha. I let him think that... until he sees me leap onto the bed with Olympic precision. Suddenly, he realizes he's dealing with a professional.
- **The Happy Ending** By the end of the day, we're curled up together, snoring in stereo. Two dogs, one home, united by snacks, naps, and the shared mission of confusing the humans.

Closing Bark

Being adopted is like joining a sitcom mid-season. You don't know the characters, the plot twists, or why the other dog insists the vacuum cleaner is evil. But you roll with it. Because in the end, every home is better with two dogs—especially when one of them brings Romanian street cred



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