

# Meet & Greet 101

## Introducing a New Dog to Your Dog at Home

Adopting a new dog is an incredible experience that comes with great responsibility. Remember that every dog is different and will need some time in his or her new home to adjust and take it all in. To help ease your new dog into their new life, the following steps are recommended to make the transition easier on everyone in your household.



## Multiple Dogs

If you have more than one dog (resident dog) at your house, it is best to introduce them one at a time to the new addition. Two or more dogs may “gang up” on the new dog. Introductions should be made outside of your house and on neutral territory.

## One-on-One Introduction

### 1. The Walk

Always introduce dogs at a neutral area outside of the home. Each dog should be handled by a different person. Both people should walk parallel to each other, but keep the dogs on opposite sides from each other. Don't let the dogs meet yet.



### 2. The Sniff

If the walk goes well, let the dogs get close enough to sniff each other while keeping their leashes loose. This meet is supposed to be friendly and stress free. If you notice negative behavior, like growling or stiff posture, move the dogs apart and refer to the additional information section of this guide. Reinforce good behavior verbally with positive words.



### 3. The Meet

If the walk and sniff go well, allow the dogs to meet in the backyard of your house while keeping both dogs on their leashes.



### 4. The House

If the dogs do well after meeting in the backyard, the next step is to keep the resident dog outside while you bring the new dog into your house. Let the new dog off his/her leash once safely inside the house. This will allow the new dog a chance to explore his/her new home without the resident dog around. This is a good opportunity to pick up all the toys, food, bones, etc. that may cause a negative reaction between the dogs.



## We Meet Again

### 1. The Inside Meet

After the new dog has had a chance to explore his/her new house, put the leash back on the new dog and let the resident dog in, also with the leash on. Let the meet occur again but this time inside the house.



### 2. House Exploration

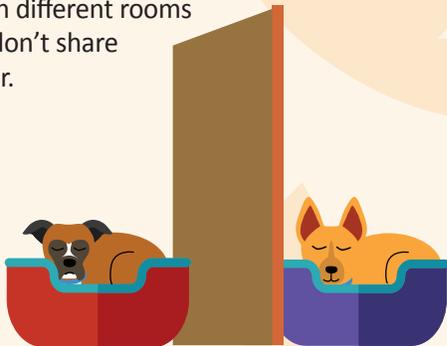
If the Inside Meet goes well and the dogs are not focused on each other, both people can drop their leashes and let the dogs explore.



## After the Introductions

### 1. Stay Watchful

The introductions may have gone well, but do not leave the dogs alone without supervision. If you are not home, or cannot watch them, (i.e. they are outside, and you need to go inside, you are in the other room, showering, at work, sleeping, etc.), make sure they are separated prior to leaving them unattended. The recommendation would be in separate crates that do not touch or roaming free in different rooms that don't share a door.



### 2. To Each His Own

Give each dog their own bed, toys, water and food bowls. Feed the dogs in separate areas, and be sure to pick up the food bowls after feeding.



### 3. High Energy

Conflicts between dogs are more common when energy levels are high and when resources (food, toys) are present. Observe the dogs during high energy interactions such as when playing with toys, when the doorbell rings, when treats are given, and in the car.

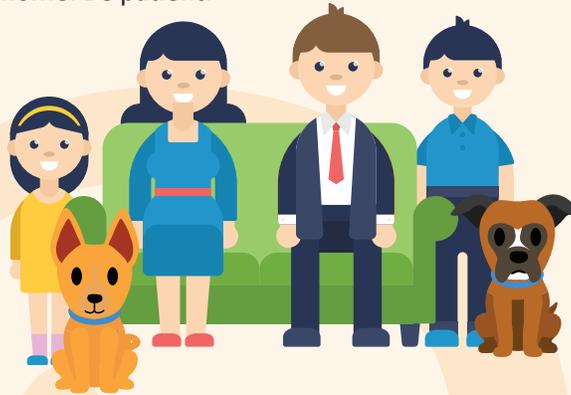
## New Dog with Children

As a reminder, children should never be left alone unsupervised with your pet. Teach your children to interact with your pet in a respectful manner.



## The End Goal

Your newly adopted dog may not have been part of a family for some time and will need time to adjust to everything new around them, including the new attention. Remember that it can take several months for a dog to feel truly at home. Be patient.



**Happy tails to you and your new family member!**

Please share your Pet Resource Center experience with us on our Facebook page and send us updates and photos on how your new pet is doing in their new home. Be sure to use to tag us.

**#PRCPets**

### Recommended Additional Information for New Dogs in the Home

[DogsPlayingForLife.com/Resources](https://DogsPlayingForLife.com/Resources)

[HumaneSociety.org/Animals/Dogs/Tips/Introducing\\_New\\_dog.html](https://HumaneSociety.org/Animals/Dogs/Tips/Introducing_New_dog.html)

[ASPCA.org/Pet-Care](https://ASPCA.org/Pet-Care)

[KeepYourpet.com](https://KeepYourpet.com)

<https://positively.com/animal-advocacy/dog-bite-prevention/child-dog-safety-guide>

These steps and suggestions are adapted from  
*Dogs Playing for Life: Introducing a New Dog to your Resident Dog.*



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