

Introducing a New Puppy to Your Dog

Keeping the Peace



Bringing home a new puppy has the potential to stress your older dog. A few basic steps can help this adjustment go smoothly. Start by keeping the puppy in a crate outside your dog's "home area." Let your older dog approach in his own time. Letting the dogs get used to each others' scents, movements and sounds without being forced is key. Don't fuss over either dog, and end the interaction if either dog seems stressed.

Next, let the dogs greet each other in an enclosed space with close supervision. Let the puppy's leash trail behind to make separating them easier. If the puppy harasses the older dog, let him tell the puppy to "knock it off" with an appropriate growl or lip lift. If the puppy doesn't get the message, separate them. Let the older dog interact with the puppy as he wants to in his own time. Don't jump in unless the older dog is stressed or the puppy is running away

Another great way to get the dogs used to each other is to go for a walk together. A walk can help build a positive association with the other dog. Keeping a regular and separate schedule with the puppy will further help your older dog adjust. Make sure that the puppy isn't allowed to infringe on your dog's "special places" in the home. Keeping your puppy on a leash in the home can help you control interactions and prevent problems.

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