

Introducing a new dog into your home



After experiencing the fun of owning one dog, you may start to consider adding another. If after careful consideration and breed research, you've decided to add a dog or puppy to your household, take the time to make it a smooth transition for all of your pets.

Before Your New Dog Arrives

- Choose a time to bring the dog home when you'll have time and energy to devote to the transition.
- Allow your existing pet(s) to sniff a towel or blanket that smells like the new dog so that they will recognize the scent.

Introduction Day

- Leash all pets and introduce them in a neutral, fenced location first.
- Next, drop their leashes, which will permit them more freedom but still allow you to separate them safely if necessary.
- Slowly take them off-leash to play, and let them to establish pecking order.
- Praise the dogs for good behavior in a friendly, happy voice; both should learn to expect that good things happen when the other is around.
- Continue to supervise your pets' play time over the long-term, keeping an eye on body language until they are completely comfortable together. Play bowing is a friendly sign while scared or angry barking, showing teeth, or hair standing up on end can signal a problem. If this happens, calmly divert the dogs' attention.

Helpful Hints

- Maintain your existing dog's routine as much as possible, and pay equal attention to the two animals.
- If introducing a new puppy to an older dog, allow your older pet to discipline the pup within reason so that the puppy learns what behaviors are acceptable. If your puppy is too rambunctious, make sure you give your older pet some quiet time to relax.
- Obedience training is beneficial for any dog. Taking your dogs to training classes will make all of you happier. To find classes and AKC-affiliated clubs near you, visit www.apps.akc.org/apps/clubs/search/index.cfm