



We continually update our skills and knowledge so that we stay current with the best practices that can help you and your dog.

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Issue 88

Living With Dogs: Successful Canine Housemates

A new puppy or dog is a time of fizzy excitement and anticipation. If you have an existing dog at home, some careful planning can make things a whole lot smoother. Before you even plan on accepting the new member of the family, make sure that the existing dog is willing and ready to have a new housemate. If she is, here are some tips for making the introduction a positive and stress-free experience for both furry friends.



Prepare Your Space: Before the big introduction, consider a neutral space where both dogs can meet for the first time. This helps to reduce the likelihood of tension. Remove any items that your existing dog might be possessive about to avoid potential conflicts.

Controlled Introduction: Keep both dogs on leash during the initial meeting. This allows you better control and an easy way to step in if needed. Choose a calm and quiet environment to minimise distractions and stress for the dogs.



Dog quotes

“The most affectionate creature in the world is a wet dog.” -

Ambrose Bierce



... successful housemates

Observe Body Language: Pay close attention to what both dogs communicate with their bodies. Look for signs of curiosity, playfulness, or tension. Positive body language, such as loose wagging tails and relaxed postures, signals smoother sailing. If either dog displays signs of upset or discomfort, such as stiffness, growling, or bared teeth, move them away from each other. Your dogs are not ready to have housemates. You may try the introduction some other time later only when you have properly prepared each dog beforehand and they are ready.

Separate Spaces: Provide each dog their own safe haven, complete with beds, bowls, and toys. Make use of safety measures such as puppy gates. This allows your dogs to relax while they get used to each other and reduces the likelihood of conflicts over resources.

Gradual Familiarisation: After the initial meeting, gradually increase the time your dogs spend together, always under supervision. Continue to monitor their behaviour closely and reinforce positive interactions with praise and treats until you are confident they've formed a solid relationship.

Remember, every dog is unique, and the introduction process may take time. Be patient, stay positive, and celebrate small victories along the way. And if you have concerns, contact a force-free trainer for guidance.



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Did You Know: How Many Dog Breeds Exist?

Dogs come in an astonishing variety of breeds, each with its unique characteristics, appearance, and temperament.

The FCI (World Canine Organisation) recognises over 360 officially registered dog breeds, and the American Kennel Club acknowledges around 197 breeds.

These numbers are continually evolving as new breeds are developed and recognised. Some arise from intentional crossbreeding, while others result from natural evolution and adaptation to specific environments. Originally, dogs were selectively bred for specific purposes, such as herding, hunting, guarding, or companionship. This selective breeding led to the creation of breeds tailored to excel in their designated roles.

Should you choose to give a dog of certain breed a home, do make sure you are able to meet the needs of the dog, and always choose a responsible breeder.



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