



HOUSTON
CHOW  **CHOW**
C O N N E C T I O N

Guidelines for Introducing Dogs

This step by step process is a great way to introduce dogs for the first time and to minimize bite risks for both dogs and humans. The goal is to give the dogs enough time to relax and wind-down from the transport, pick up the scents of the new dogs and humans, and to feel comfortable throughout the process. Never remove collars and leashes, and never try to break up a dog fight with your hands, legs, or any part of your body.

1. Start by meeting on neutral ground! This means in a park or quiet area without too much stimulation.
2. Let the dogs decompress individually from travel or transport. That means take them for a small walk with no extra stimulus.
3. Let the Foster dog meet the potential adopter without another dog around, meaning leave the other dog in the car with the AC running or with another person. Have that meet and greet happen so that the dog knows that that is not a stranger anymore nor is it somebody that they have to be fearful of.
4. When it is time for the two dogs to meet, first walk them up and down the streets on opposite sides so they can see each other but not touch each other. Recommend doing this a couple of times up and down the street.
5. Once the “across the street” happens, then walk behind each other with the dogs with six to eight feet between them so that they can smell each other but not touch. Again, walk up and down the street a couple times. During this time, switch who's in front and who's in back so they have the opportunity to get each other's scent.
6. Next step is to walk side-by-side with the two humans in the middle and dogs on each side of the human. Gradually let them walk side-by-side. If this goes well then you can then proceed.
7. The next step is to take them to a **FENCED BACKYARD** if you're meeting at a house. They both need to still stay on leashes and then let them walk around with you on the leash.
8. Once they have walked around with you holding the leash, drop the leashes and allow them to mingle around together. Keep the leash on so in case something happens, so either leash can be grabbed to regain control.
9. If both parties come to a consensus that things are going well, you can then take them into the house and repeat step 8.
10. At any time if either person feels concerned, you need to stop the process. If the dogs are good with each other in a common area like the street and in the backyard, they should be good inside the house. Please continue to use caution. New and current dogs should not be left alone without supervision for a good amount of time, meaning weeks/months depending on the dogs and family dynamic. This can also depend on how comfortable the potential adopter(s) feels.