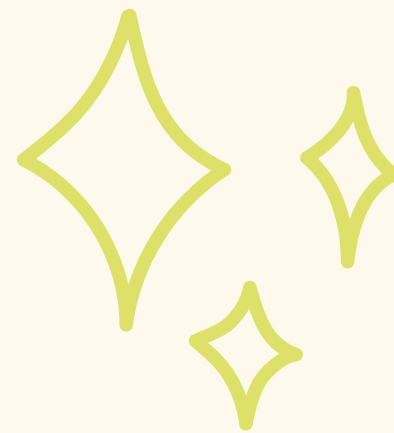




# INTRODUCING A NEW DOG



## CLASS TIPS FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION

### First Part of Introduction: Take a Walk

1

Walk both dogs together with one human per dog. Let them sniff each other without forcing it. If they don't approach each other, just keep walking in the same direction. A good introduction involves letting them sniff for about 5 seconds, then calling each dog away and walking in opposite directions. Repeat this, increasing the greeting time gradually.

### On-Leash Greetings in Open Spaces

2

Keep dogs on a leash for the first greeting in an open space. After meeting while walking, move to a neutral location. Drop the leashes, so the dogs are dragging them. This allows for easy intervention if needed and signals to the dogs that you still have control. Once the dogs are socializing well, remove your dog's leash but leave the leash on the new dog until you're comfortable.

### Neutral Ground Introductions

3

Introduce dogs on neutral ground, such as a fenced school yard, tennis courts, or a neighbor's fenced yard. If this isn't possible, introduce the dogs outdoors. These environments reduce territorial issues and provide more space. If the new dog feels threatened, he can move away.

### One at a Time Introductions

4

If you have more than one dog, introduce them to the new dog one at a time. This helps prevent the new dog from feeling overwhelmed and allows for more controlled introductions.

### Avoid Gates and Doorways

5

Dogs get tense around gates and doorways, so avoid introductions in these areas. Instead, introduce them in the middle of an open area to prevent tension from developing.

### Keep Moving

6

At the start of the meeting, keep moving. If people move around with purpose, the dogs usually follow, which helps avoid tense greetings. Continuous movement can make the dogs more relaxed.

### Monitor Play Time

7

Allow dogs to play for 5-10 minutes, then give them a break. Don't allow endless play sessions for the first few days. Problems can occur if one dog wants to stop playing and the other wants to continue. Always supervise play sessions to ensure safety.

### Remove Favorite Toys and Bones

8

Remove any toys or bones from the initial play area. Your dog may not want the new dog playing with his things until he adjusts to the new dog. This helps prevent possessiveness and potential conflicts.

