



Best Practices for Dog Introductions

It is always best to have dogs meet each other on neutral territory and in a calm manner. The best way to do this is to take both dogs on a walk (with one person holding each dog).

1. Start by walking a distance away from each other to let the dogs get used to each other from a distance and also to let the initial excitement of seeing another dog decrease.

If the dogs are barking or pulling at the other dog, increase the distance away from the other dog and don't allow them to approach until they have calmed down. If two dogs are really excited when they meet, it is less likely to be a good first impression.

2. When you are able to let them get close enough to sniff, loosen up on the leash so that you don't add any unnecessary tension and then let them sniff! Usually, it's best to let them each sniff for a few seconds and then call them away and continue to walk.

This process will set both dogs up for success and will allow the dogs to greet each other in a controlled and calm way!

3. Once they have had a chance to sniff each other and go on a walk (which will tire them out some) You can bring them back to the house and let them get used to each other in a new space. Keep on leash at first and after a few minutes with no issues, you can take them off leash.

It helps to pick up toys, treats, or bones that they may fight over so that you can prevent any issues from the beginning. Keep things low key as they are still getting used to each other, so stay away from high excitement situations and rough play. You should slowly introduce these things once the dogs have had time to acclimate.