

Second Dog Introduction Checklist

First impressions between dogs go best **outdoors, on neutral ground, on loose leashes, with distance you shrink slowly**. At home, remove the things dogs argue over before they share the space, and keep them apart whenever you can't supervise.

FILLABLE PDF – TYPE ON A COMPUTER OR TABLET, OR PRINT AND FILL IT IN BY HAND.

RESIDENT DOG

NEW DOG

MEETING DATE

THE MEETING

- 1 Neutral ground:** a place new to both dogs, two handlers, high-value treats.
- 2 Start far apart:** close enough to see each other calmly; reward relaxed looking.
- 3 Parallel walk:** one dog behind the other, then switch, then side by side.
- 4 Short greeting** on loose leashes only when both look relaxed; keep it brief.
- 5 Walk home together,** then go inside with leashes still on.
- 6 Don't scold a growl** and don't force dogs that ignore each other to interact.

HOME PREP

- ☐ **Pick up** food bowls, chews, toys and treats before they share the house
- ☐ **Feed in separate rooms;** give each dog its own bed and toys
- ☐ **Extra water bowls** and beds; put the resident dog's favorites away
- ☐ **Tall baby gate** between them at first
- ☐ **Apart when you're out,** and at bedtime at first
- ☐ **One-on-one time** with each dog every day

BODY LANGUAGE

Going well

Relaxed faces, play bows, fast loose wags, wiggly back ends. Signs of stress such as yawning, head turns or a low tail mean a calm break.

Step in calmly

Hackles up, stiff walk, hard stare, growl, lip lift, bared teeth. Add distance and try again later.

FIRST WEEKS LOG

DATE	WHAT YOU DID	HOW IT WENT	NOTES

THE FULL VERSION: [SECOND DOG INTRODUCTION GUIDE](#) • ON ETSY: [NEWDOGCO.ETSY.COM](#)

Sources: Humane World for Animals (introducing dogs); VCA Animal Hospitals (getting a second dog; introducing a new dog); American Kennel Club. If tension keeps escalating, talk to your vet or a behavior professional.