

## 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 |
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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.