How to

INTRODUCE A NEW DOG TO YOUR HOUSEHOLD

The important thing is to make the **right choices from the start** as it's much easier to introduce a new dog slowly to your household, rather than have to **correct problems** caused by a rushed introduction.

1. Assess your own dog

What are your existing dog's feelings about new dogs in the home? If they are regularly welcoming friend and family's dogs into their home without issue, then you may not need to be as careful.

If your dog is not friendly to new, strange dogs then you need to take more precautions.

2. Bringing home a puppy

A puppy may be easier to be integrated into the home as dogs often pick up on that they need to be more **gentle** with a puppy (but not always)! However, with pups, ensure your existing dog has **plenty of time** away from the pup - don't let them be hassled to a point where they will react!

3. Adult rescue dog

If you're bring home an adult rescue dog, then you also want to know the temperament of the adult rescue dog. Have they lived with dogs before? Are they male/female, unneutered/neutered? Take introductions slowly, meeting off site in a neutral location like the park if safe to do so.

4. Create separate but connected spaces

Ensure everyone has space to move away from each other - don't leave it until one dog feels pressured to react to another dog to give them space. Babygates are great for creating separate spaces from each other, whilst still being able to see, smell and hear the other dogs and people in the house.

5. Remove items to guard

Before your new dog or puppy joins the home, remove things that your dogs might want to guard, such as picking up toys and chew bones. Eventually these can be reintroduced, but removing any items lowers the risk of tension or fights breaking out.

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