

Getting Your Adopted & Current Dogs Acclimated in Your Home

Imagine that you moved into a new home and there was already another person living there! Suddenly, you are in a new place and have to share it. How would you feel in this situation? This is exactly how your newly adopted dog & current dog(s) will feel. Below you will find tips on how to acclimate both dogs in the home.

- When introducing your dogs, it is best to keep them separate but allow them to see each other the first few days. Separation is also recommended due to medical reasons. They should not be together all the time but still be aware the other one is there.
 - Create a safe space for your new dog. This safe space should not be in an area where your current dog likes to be in. It should be in an area your other dog is not usually in. This can be created using baby gates, x-pens, or crates. These tools allow the dogs to get used to each other without the pressure to directly interact. This separation allows you to observe each dog's body language and see how they are adjusting to being around each other.
 - When they are separated you can give them each treats for any positive interactions through the barrier. Positive interactions can be looking at each other starting from across the room to sniffing each other through the barrier. This will help build a positive association when they are together.
- Allow your adopted dog to come out of the confined area when your other dog(s) are not present. They can smell and interact with the areas your dog has been in. It allows them to explore the environment without the pressure to interact with your current dog(s).
- **Do Not allow your dogs to be out together when you are gone or not able to give them your full attention.**
- Give the dogs their food bowls & bones in separate areas. This will help prevent any issues over resources.
- Create Shared Enjoyment:
 - Take your dogs on a walk individually first. Allow them to get their energy out individually, then walk them together with separate handlers. It is best to walk them parallel to each other and gradually move closer as they are showing relaxed/playful body language. Starting them apart will allow them to get used to each other's presence. Bring high value treats on the walks with you and reward any positive interactions that you see from your dogs.
 - While on separate sides of the barrier, give them mental enrichment at the same time. They can enjoy the mental enrichment such as a puzzle, snuffle mat, or kong at the same time but in separate areas.
- Take Turns:





- Do a training session in a separate room with each dog and then do a training session while they are together but still behind a barrier. Do a few cues with your current dog and then do the same cues with your adopted dog. Keep these sessions short to 5-10 minutes total for each dog, switching every 30 seconds to a minute.
- Have them take turns sharing food out of the same food container (yogurt container) or peanut butter while they are separated by a barrier. The food should NOT be something novel it should be something they have

had before and there should be enough for each of them to get an equal amount. They should each get the same amount of time licking while still getting an equal amount of the food.

- When both dogs are starting to playfully interact or showing relaxed body language through the barriers you can bring them out for free roam time. This allows the dogs to be out together and interact without the barrier. Relaxed body language means their bodies are loose and wiggly.
 - When you allow them to interact it is best to have the dogs drag leashes in case you need to separate them.
 - Pick up all the toys & bones from the area.
 - You can allow short periods of play time. It is best to separate any play that becomes stiff.



- **Do not expect your introductions to happen in the first 2-3 days. Proper introductions can take several weeks depending on the personalities of each dog.**

If you are seeing growling, fighting or would like assistance introducing your dog(s) please contact the Behavior Department:

Behavior Hotline: 262-542-8851 ext. 204

Email: Training@hawspets.org
