

# ACCLIMATING YOUR NEWLY ADOPTED DOG & YOUR CURRENT DOG(S) 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 and current dog(s) will feel.

To successfully acclimate a new adopted dog to your current dog, prioritize controlled introductions, close supervision, separate feeding areas, and positive reinforcement. Consult a trainer if you notice signs of aggression or stress. Making sure both dogs have their own designated and safe spaces to retreat to when necessary.

## Initial Introduction:

- **Neutral Territory:** After coming home with your new dog, it's best to have them first meet in a neutral area, like your own fenced in backyard. Keep their leashes on, but having the dogs drag them. Or by taking them on a neutral walk and allowing them to sniff each other at a distance while maintaining control.
- **Separate Spaces:** When bringing the new dog home, it is best to keep them separate but allow them to see each other the first few days. It is also recommended to keep them separated due to medical reasons. Create a safe space for your new dog by using baby gates, x-pens, or a different room/crates. These tools allow the dogs to get use to each other without the pressure to directly interact.

## Supervised Interactions:

- **Supervise:** Do not allow your dogs to be out together when you are gone or not able to give them your full attention.
- **Short Sessions:** Start with short interactions and it is best to have the dogs drag leashes in case you need to separate them.
- **Observe Body Language:** Pay close attention to signs of discomfort like growling, lip-curling, or tucked tail, and separate if necessary. Please contact the HAWS Behavior Department if you need some assistance with proper introductions.

## Resource Management:

- **Separate Feeding:** Feed the dogs in different areas to avoid food guarding issues.
- **Dedicated Toys:** Provide each dog with their own set of toys, avoiding sharing until they are comfortable with each other.

## Gradual Progression:

- **Increase Interaction Time:** As the dogs show positive interactions, gradually increase the time they spend together, still under supervision.
- **Shared Activities:** Once comfortable, engage in joint activities like walks, playtime, or training sessions.

## Important Considerations:

- **Patience is Key:** Adjusting to a new dog can take time, so be patient and consistent with your approach.
- **Respect Individual Needs:** Ensure each dog has a safe space to retreat to when they need alone time.