



Dog Intros

- **Choose a neutral location for the introduction, such as a park or neighbor's yard.** Each dog should be on leash and handled by a separate person. If you're adopting from Seattle Humane, it's likely that your resident dog and your new canine friend will meet at the shelter prior to going home.
- **Use Positive Reinforcement.** You always want both dogs to associate "good things" with each other's company. Let them walk side-by-side and sniff each other briefly then follow with happy talk, simple commands, treat rewards and more walking.
- **Be aware of your dog's body postures.** If either dog is getting stiff, tucking his tail, or growling, calmly interrupt the interaction by redirecting the dogs to something else – like a "sit" or "down" command followed immediately by a yummy treat. Positive indications include loose lips, soft eyes and body disposition, a play-bow, or a low-wagging tail.
- **Give each dog a separate space in your home.** Each dog should have their own space – meaning separate food/water bowls, beds and toys. Remember it's common for dogs to be guarded of their food, treats and toys around other dogs even if they've hit it off initially.
- **Puppies can be annoying.** And we mean this in the best way possible! Puppies are similar to small children – they don't know the rules and will pester adult dogs. A well-socialized adult dog may set limits with puppies by giving a snarl or growl. **This is normal.** Be sure to supervise interactions between adult dog and puppy as well as give the adult dog time alone with individual attention.
- **When it's not working.** Seek help from a professional animal behaviorist. Often these conflicts can be resolved with professional training but take note! **Punishments will not work and can actually make the behavior worse.**