

Bringing your new dog home

Once you have decided on a suitable companion make sure to have everything prepared for the new arrival before taking him home.

- Follow the same routine when you bring your new dog home as in new introductions by having one adult per dog and taking them for a parallel walk in an unfamiliar area.
- Take great care when introducing the dogs inside your home or on your property.
- For at least the first week practice parallel walking out and about before allowing close up introductions on your property or in your home.
- When you do allow the dogs to meet do so in the widest space possible and remove items that may be valuable to either dog such as beds, food, toys and so on. Don't work closely to sleeping areas, sofas, food preparation areas.
- At first it is a good idea to have both dogs on leash but the new dog should be dragging a house line indoors (under supervision only) for the first couple of weeks so that you can restrain him if needed.
- Confine your new dog to his crate while the resident pet is around – feed both pets so that they learn to associate nice things with the presence of the other but separate and not threatened by the other.
- Swap them around so that each dog gets to wander safely, making sure that the new dog is closely supervised when free.
- Do not leave your two dogs together unsupervised for at least their first month together; in some instances this may never be possible with at least one dog having to be crated while alone.
- When you leave your dog/s it is likely that they will be at the very least a little distressed – this may mean that fights are more likely to escalate.
- With some types and personalities of dogs it is best that they are separated when not directly supervised for the remainder of their lives - this takes careful management and thorough crate training so that each dog is happy.