



SAN FRANCISCO
SPCA

Dog to Dog Introductions

A New Canine Companion for your Family and Family Dog

Adding a new canine companion to a home with a dog can be great fun and offer extra companionship for both your dog and your family. The dogs need time to build a good relationship. The following tips are suggestions for safety and will help the relationship get off to a great start.

Introduce the dogs outside your home in a neutral area. Take a short walk in the neighborhood, or at a park nearby.

Pick up all toys, chews, bones, food bowls, and the resident dog's favorite items. When dogs are creating a relationship these items (resources) may cause rivalry. They can be introduced after a couple of weeks.

It is very important to avoid quarrels during these early stages of the "sibling" relationship.



Also, you must *double* your supply of water dishes, food dishes, dog beds, and dog toys.

- **Do** give your new dog his/her *own* confinement area
- **Do** keep all dog play and socializing positive and brief. This will help avoid over-stimulation or quarrels which may erupt with overly rough or extended play
- **Do** feed dogs in separate areas, completely closed off from one another
- **Do** spend time with each dog individually
- **Do** keep dogs separate when you cannot supervise interactions
- **Do** supervise dogs when around family members, toys or resting areas
- **Do** use a "Happy Praising Voice" whenever the dogs are having positive interactions.
- **Do** use a "Strong Voice" to interrupt any growling or bully type behavior. Use a phrase such as "Too Bad" and separate the "bully-dog" to a different area for a few minutes then try again.



DON'T give chews, rawhides, or bones (even if each dog has his/her own) when dogs are together. Wait several weeks, please! The dogs should enjoy these fun chews but *only* when they are separated, in their own crate or individual confinement area.

DON'T use your hands or body to intervene during a dog quarrel. Use your voice, a loud noise or water to stop the fight. If the dogs do not stop, use a chair or other large object to insert in between them, or pull them apart by the rear legs or tail to separate. *Be aware that*, when dogs are fighting, they are highly aroused and it is *never* safe to use your hands to attempt separation.