

## Introducing Your New Dog to Your Dog in the Home

Thank you for adopting from the shelter.

Here are some tips from Debbie Winkler, CABC, CPDT and Dorothy Ruck, BA, MPA to help make the introductions go as smoothly as possible.

- Introduce the new dog to the established dog on neutral territory, at least three times, so they have the opportunity to become acquainted before the new dog enters the established dog's territory.
- Allow the new dog to investigate the new home several times a day, while leashed, when the established dog is outside or otherwise occupied.
- When the established dog is present, keep the new dog confined, but able to see, smell, and hear the established dog so they can communicate. This will also give you a chance to observe their interactions to get an idea of how they are adjusting to each other's presence.
- When both dogs seem to want to interact in the home playfully, begin to schedule several short playtime periods, everyday (each lasting just a few minutes), gradually increasing the time until the dogs are no longer separated.
- **Feed each dog in separate areas and pick up their food bowls/containers before the dogs are together again. This can help to prevent food resource guarding.**
- Any toys that are food-related or favorite toys of the established dog's should be removed before the dogs are permitted to interact.
- Walk both dogs, using two people, having them both head in the same direction, several times per day. This will allow them to get used to each other's presence on neutral territory and will help get them acquainted.
- If an altercation occurs, DO NOT correct either dog – it is communication between them that is necessary. Contact a qualified behavior consultant immediately for advice specific to your situation.
- Never leave dogs unsupervised if they have not had enough time to become friendly with each other.

