



DOG-DOG INTRODUCTION

TTU ANIMAL BEHAVIOR CLINIC

Importance of dog-dog introduction

Gradual dog-dog introductions are important to ensure that all animals in the household have positive interactions. Controlled introductions reduces negative experiences such as the development of fear and/or aggression while setting up the foundation for a successful first experience with each other. This will later allow them to have trust with each other and create a peaceful living experience.

Body language to look for:

• Positive body language:

Relaxed postures with loose body movement, playful open mouth, wagging tail, play bow, and relaxed ears.

• Negative body language:

Stiff body movement, tucked/erect tail, bared teeth, growling/lip curling, protruded eyes/prolonged staring, raised hackles, and excessive yawning.

If there are signs of negative body language, separate the dogs and work on training and then reintroduce after a couple minutes.

How to properly introduce:

- Keep dogs separate for the first couple of days so they get used to each other.
- Make sure both dogs are on leash, and have one person per dog for handling and control.
- Do initial introductions in neutral territory (park or neighborhood) before doing it at home.
- Allow them to come closer and sniff and then create distance.
- Observe their body language.
- Reward wanted behavior with treats.

Tips for success:

- Be patient with the introductions. They may take multiple sessions and days before the dogs are comfortable.
- Give positive reinforcement for wanted behavior.
- Supervise interactions (keep kids away during initial interactions for safety).
- Keep high value items such as treats and food away during introductions and separate them for the first couple of weeks.

Check out these helpful resources!



CONTACT US!



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