

General Information

- *Introduce the dogs before you bring the new dog home. Don't introduce them on the day of arrival at the new home.*
- *It is very important to realize everyone will need time to adjust. Keep things positive and upbeat during this period.*
- *Toys, bones and balls may be a fight trigger for dogs. Pick up anything they may become possessive over before allowing dogs in the same area.*
- *Each dog should have their own food and water bowls, bed and toys. The dogs should be fed in separate areas of the house. You should pick up any uneaten food 15 minutes after feeding.*
- *Spend time alone with each dog. If you only interact with the dogs together it may create jealousy issues between the dogs. The first few weeks of the dogs relationship will set the stage for the rest of their lives together.*
- *Get your new dog an ID name-tag as soon as possible.*

Brochure Printing Donated by
Friends of AACAC, Inc.

P.O. Box 45
Millersville, MD 21108
www.faacac.org
www.facebook.com/FAACAC

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
ANIMAL CONTROL

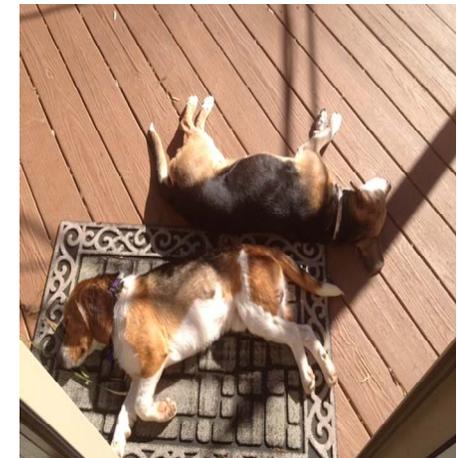
411 Maxwell Frye Rd.
Millersville, MD 21108

Phone: 410-222-8900
Fax: 410-222-8915

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
ANIMAL CONTROL

Bringing Home a Dog

To Live With An
Existing Dog



*Most importantly,
take things slowly!*

Patience is Key!

Take things slowly when introducing the dogs. It usually takes 2 to 4 weeks to know if the dogs will be friends. Be Patient with both dogs!

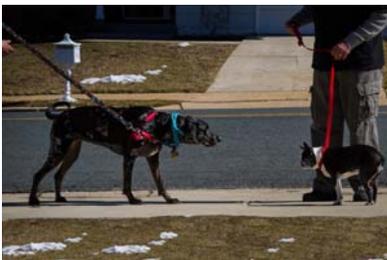
Initial Meet & Greet

The initial meeting between the dogs should take place on neutral territory, not in your house, car or yard.

Use the largest space available that is safe, such as the one here at Animal Control.

The more they can move around, the better they can observe each other's body language to get to know each other.

If you would like to schedule a meet & greet to occur here at Animal Control, please see the front counter staff for more information.



Meeting at Home

The initial meeting at home should take place outdoors while both dogs are leashed. Keep leashes loose as tension may cause the dogs to feel anxious or fearful.

If you have more than one dog, introduce them each separately to the new dog.

Once they have had time to meet each other (sniffing, etc) take them inside, keep all dogs involved leashed when going inside and the dogs should be separated once they get inside.

The new dog should be crated or confined for the first two weeks and after that when you are not there to supervise.

After the two weeks have passed, do another outdoor meeting while they are leashed. Next, bring the dogs inside, keeping the leashes on the dogs. Keep these interactions brief, 10 or 15 minutes, ending on a positive note.

Watch the dogs' body language. Hard stares, low growls, raised hackles and stiffening of the body are all warning signs. This is the time to step in with a loud noise and then crate or otherwise separate the animals.

After the two week separation, during their first weeks together, the only time the dogs should be around each other is while supervised. You will know they are beginning to accept one another when they begin to ignore each other. The goal here is to show the existing dog that the new dog is now a part of the pack.

Troubleshooting

Common fight triggers include chasing a squirrel or ball in the backyard, rushing to the door when the doorbell rings, receiving attention from you, play sessions between the dogs that get too exciting and tug of war games.

If the animals do get overexcited, take action using a loud noise and immediately separate the dogs to different areas until everyone has settled down.

Remember, while the dogs are getting to know each other, always separate them when you are not home or able to supervise.



Note: Similar introduction methods should be used when introducing your new dog to your pre-existing cat, but always keep the dog on leash.