

6 ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR BRINGING HOME A NEW DOG

PROPER PAWS DOG TRAINING

Bringing a new puppy or dog into your home is an exciting milestone, but it can be challenging, especially when introducing a dog to a household with existing pets. Social media and movies often depict an unrealistic, instant bond between dogs, but a thoughtful approach ensures a smooth transition. Follow these six essential tips to help your new dog settle in safely and harmoniously.

1. SET UP BARRIERS

New dogs can overwhelm even the most sociable pets. Use barriers, such as baby gates, to create separate spaces for the first few days to a week. This allows dogs to get acquainted gradually, reducing stress and preventing conflicts.

2. REMOVE TOYS, BONES, AND BOWLS

This one is a MUST! We want to prevent all opportunities for any dog to feel the need to resource guard. If you have a dog that resource guards a bed or other objects, those items will also need to be removed so that all dogs can establish a trusting relationship first.

3. USE A LEASH INDOORS AND OUTDOORS

Keep your new dog on a leash both inside and outside to maintain control and ensure safety. A leash helps manage space, prevents overly excited behavior, and allows you to guide interactions between dogs effectively.

4. FEED DOGS SEPARATELY

Feed your dogs in separate areas, using barriers or crates, to avoid competition or guarding behavior. Providing each dog with their own space during meals ensures they feel secure and comfortable.

5. SUPERVISE ALL PLAYTIME

Monitor all interactions closely, keeping play sessions short and positive. Supervised play helps dogs learn to coexist, teaches self-regulation, and prevents roughhousing from escalating. Never leave dogs unattended during the adjustment period.

6. UTILIZE CRATE TRAINING

Crate training is a vital tool for your dog's safety and development. A crate provides a safe space for your dog to decompress, settle down, and stay secure when unsupervised or when you're away from home.

Welcoming a new dog requires patience and preparation. By following these tips, you can create a safe, stress-free environment that helps your new dog and existing pets build lasting, positive relationships. For more advice or if you are looking for additional help with a new dog you are welcoming into your home, contact Proper Paws at taylor@proper-paws.com or online at www.proper-paws.com!

