



Introducing your puppy to existing dogs



Bringing a new puppy into the home can be a traumatic time. People have wonderful idealistic views of dogs meeting falling in love and being the long-lost pal they so desired while long-term this is generally is the case it's quite rare that the affection is immediate.

The best way to make an introduction is on neutral ground this of course poses a problem with an unvaccinated puppy.

We would recommend where possible to get somebody to walk your existing dog (s) while you are arriving home with the puppy this has two benefits it burns off energy and be the dog is out of the way while the puppy is introduced.

Initially let your puppy explore the house and garden let them have a little look round and find their feet. Then bring the existing canine residents back and make the introduction in the garden.

Introductions are always unpredictable there are a number of scenarios that can unfold and unfortunately until you are actually making the intro it is impossible to know which one it will be.

Ideal scenario is from the beginning they are happy in each other's company.

Problems that can arise can include-

Aggression from the older dog to the puppy

There will be an element of the older dog stating his or her authority and reprimanding the youngster provided that nobody is being physically injured it is best to allow this to pan out on its own and the dogs to establish a pecking order.

If injuries are likely to be incurred, you will of course need to step in to ensure this does not happen keeping dogs focused on basic obedience tasks and ensuring they have time at space will assist with this.

Overzealous puppy

A quite common problem is that on introduction an overzealous puppy will not leave the adult dogs alone and adult dogs who are too good natured to chastise them if this is the case you will need to step in yourself to ensure that your old dog is not being unnecessarily stressed.

Insuring the puppy has plenty of mental stimulation from interactive type toys will mean that the other dog is less interesting than the toys.

Ensure the older dog has an area he or she can escape to.

Avoid trying to permanently separate dogs with physical barriers all you will do is create a situation where eventually the dogs will almost be baiting at each other and the excitement will grow and grow and eventually when somebody forgets to shut that barrier or hell will break loose.

Resources

Ensuring that dogs have ample resources is a must the biggest cause of disagreements between animals is fighting for resources and protecting them.

By resources we mean things such as toys food/water, beds and even human interaction.

Ensure each dog receives equal measures of attention and there are more than enough toys/beds/food & water bowls to go around.

The final point to remember is the canine relationships are built in a day they built of mutual trust respect and time spent bonding so don't be upset or alarmed if initially the two dogs don't seem to want to get along sometimes it can be a matter of hours before relationship starts to bloom as it can be weeks.