



INTRODUCING PUPPIES AND ADULT DOGS

Puppies are easily excitable...they jump, are uncoordinated and can be all up in your face ! They mean no harm but this can be overwhelming for an older dog.

Here's a few tips to help 'introduce' a new puppy to your adult dog....

Firstly, recognize your puppy is learning, they have potentially just come from rough and tumble with their littermates, so they will need to learn how to communicate with your adult dog. The play will likely be different and different 'rules' may apply.

Monitor all interactions between your puppy and your adult dog.

Your adult dog may growl at your puppy. (or vice versa !) That's ok, its part of how dogs communicate. If your puppy doesn't understand the growl means 'back off', its your job to advocate for your adult dog, by providing time and space away from your puppy.

Your adult dog may not want to interact with the puppy straight away. If this is the case, allow a few days for them to get used to each others presence without any direct interactions. For some dogs, this may take longer, but again, that's ok !

This will mean adding control and management. Using things like crates, puppy pens, baby gates or barriers to create distance from each other and provide much needed downtime. This will help prevent an overtired puppy and an agitated or stressed adult dog.

Reward your adult dog for showing a curious interest in your new puppy and reward your new puppy for being calm around your adult dog !

During play or interactions, practice using an interrupter cue such as 'ENOUGH'. When you say this, calmly separate your puppy and adult dog and give them a calming exercise (in separate areas), such as a safe edible chew or licki-mat. The more you rehearse this, the more your dogs will start to understand they need to settle when you say 'ENOUGH'. Practice, practice, practice !

Be vigilant with resources. Separate/supervise when providing meals and high value chews or rewards.

Educate yourself on dog body language ! Always err on the side of caution. If you think either your puppy or older dog are not coping, reach out to your breeder or qualified trainer for guidance.