

Unacceptable aggression includes:

1. Bites that break the skin
2. Aggressive interactions that last more than a few seconds that include broken skin.

A dog may react to an aggressive display by “yiping” like a puppy, rolling over on his back, slinking away, running away, crouching down and smacking his lips, etc. This is also normal, and is referred to as a submissive display. Dogs learn as puppies that submissive behaviors “turn off” aggression in others. If the aggressor continues to attack the dog showing submissive behavior, you need to intervene. More information on submissive body language in dogs is available in our adoption packets or by request.

Generally, your dog will be stressed by the addition of a new dog. Dogs thrive on structure and routine, and a new addition definitely upsets things. Your dog may temporarily become destructive, eliminate in the house and do all sorts of things you thought she had outgrown. They may become depressed & refuse food. This is NORMAL and temporary, but generally very upsetting for owners. Be ready to deal with these problems. Most owners also are upset when the new dog acts aggressively and dominates their current dog. Be ready to accept this, should it be the case.

It may be best to gradually introduce the dogs. Put them together for short, supervised periods. Never leave them alone together. Gradually increase the time spent together. If you're having aggression problems, do this gradual introduction over a month's time.

Make the time they spend together pleasant and fun. Pet both dogs, **praise** them and give them treats for interacting nicely, and play with them. (If one or both dogs are very possessive, this will be difficult to do). Make them associate being around each other with “feeling good.” This may help them learn to get along and feel less threatened by each other. Also, be sure to exercise the pants off both dogs EVERYDAY. This will help alleviate any stress or frustration the dog(s) may feel. Also, tired dogs are generally much better behaved and more likely to get along.

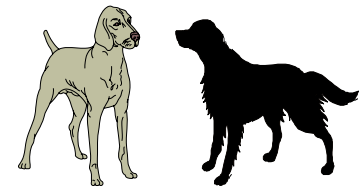
Once you know who is “Top Dog,” it's important to treat that dog as such. The Top Dog should be greeted first when you come home, fed first, given treats first, let outside first, etc. This will help reinforce and stabilize their relationship. Feeding, greeting and treating the Bottom Dog first will confuse them and may result in increased aggression.

Introducing a second dog IS a lot of work, and quite frequently very stressful for the whole family. If you're prepared to deal with the problems, consider making a commitment to caring for another friend!



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Bringing Home a Second Dog



**Introducing A Second
Dog Is A Lot Of Work,
And Quite Frequently
Very Stressful For
The Whole Family.**

**The Information
Inside Will Help Make
The Introduction
Easier!**

Adding another dog to your family can be a very rewarding experience for you and your current dog. Dogs are social creatures. Many dogs prefer constant company over being alone. But dogs are also territorial and possessive creatures. Introducing a new dog is usually NOT a smooth process. If you're getting another dog to provide company for your current dog, you may want to think twice. It most likely won't work out the way you want it to.

First, you must evaluate your dog's temperament. Is your dog very protective of you, your home, your yard, your car, his food, his toys? Has he had frequent interactions with many other dogs? How does he respond to other dogs? Is he usually bossy? Very playful? Indifferent? Afraid? Aggressive? If your dog has not had many positive interactions with other dogs, is very dominant or bossy towards other dogs, and/or is very protective of his family, territory and possessions, introducing a new dog will be VERY difficult at best. Your dog will probably be most happy being the only dog.

If your dog has not had much exposure to other dogs, you should work to socialize her prior to getting another dog. Obedience classes, pet supply stores, parks, forest preserves and the homes of other dog owners are great places to get her used to being with other dogs. If she shows signs of fear or aggression towards other dogs, work slowly to expose her to others. Take her to a dog-frequented park for walks, games and obedience work. Use lots of positive reinforcement to get her used to being around other dogs. Slowly begin introducing her to dogs face-to-face. You

may need the assistance of a trainer or behaviorist to do this.

Once your dog reacts positively towards other dogs, you may consider adopting another. It is generally accepted that introducing a second dog of the same sex is more difficult than introducing a dog of the opposite sex. Introducing a young puppy is usually much easier than introducing an adult. Problems *may* start, however, when the puppy matures. Most importantly, you need to know how dominant or "bossy" both dogs are towards other dogs. Putting two very dominant dogs together will result in lots of aggression & challenges over who's "boss."

If you are considering adopting a second dog, we require you to bring your current dog to the shelter to spend time with the potential adoptee. This is to ensure the dogs do not immediately react to each other with extreme fear or aggression. Typically, the dogs will greet each other briefly and size each other up. They may play together a bit. Then they tend to ignore each other. This brief introduction on neutral territory does not reflect what the first few days or weeks will be like in your home. Two dogs that meet on neutral territory have little reason to interact or form a relationship. Two dogs required to live in the same pack must and establish a relationship and learn to get along.

When you bring a new dog into your home, some aggression is normal. The dogs need to work out their relationship by letting each other know what their limits are. Aggression is a form of communication used to establish the

boundaries of a relationship. When one dog gets too playful, the other reacts with aggression to say "Stop it." When one dog tries to take away another's possession, the other may react with aggression. The dog whose aggressive displays are most successful at controlling the other's behavior will become "Top Dog." Once "Top Dog" is established, the need for aggression decreases. The "Bottom Dog" learns to defer to the "Top Dog." This may take a few weeks to establish. Two very dominant dogs may continuously try to become "Top Dog," and aggressive behavior does not decrease.

What is normal aggression?

Any aggression that does not result in injury is normal and O.K. Dogs learn how to inhibit their bites as puppies when playing with and challenging their littermates. Normal aggression includes:

1. Baring teeth, lip-curling
2. Growling
3. Snarling
4. Snapping
5. Raised hair along the back and tail
6. Stiff posture, standing over another dog
7. Stiff tail-wagging with the tail straight up in the air
8. Pinning the other dog down by the neck

Normal aggressive interactions usually last a very short time (about 10 seconds). More information on interpreting aggressive body language is available in our adoption packets or on request.