

Prepare For A Dog's Arrival - Think Ahead

- It's exciting and fun to anticipate the moment you meet the dog of your dreams, but be realistic about a dog's behavior and consider how much time you will have to devote to his or her training.
 - Is everyone in the family in agreement that a dog is a good addition to the family? Remember you will all need to be consistent when training.
 - Purchase a leash, collar, instant ID tag, chews, treats, toys, kibble, a brush and if getting a puppy, puppy proof the house.
 - Containment - is **so** important. You will need a place to keep your dog where he won't cause damage to your belongings, or harm himself. Consider baby gates, a crate, tethers, a pen, or a small room for indoors. Consider a kennel, securely fenced yard, runners, or a pen for outside. If spending time outside the dog will need a place to stay that is warm and dry in the winter, and cool and shady in the summer.
 - The dog will need to be constantly supervised (don't assume an older dog is housetrained), and for house training purposes, start with taking the dog to his potty area every hour so he understands what's expected of him.
 - Be sure to teach the dog to be alone from the first day. Work up from minutes to an hour of leaving the dog safely in another room or a crate (consider giving her something yummy to occupy her time).
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Dog to Dog Introductions

- Always have a helper and leave children at home or indoors.
- Be prepared to break up a fight, and discuss a plan of action beforehand.
- Introduce on neutral ground - you can use a tennis court (enclosed area), or a fenced area with a dog on each side of the fence. Start with dogs at a distance and watch their body language. When ready, let dogs drag a light leash, in case you need a quick handle. If no safe enclosure is possible, let the dogs greet on a loose leash, let them briefly meet and then take them for a walk.
- If multi-dog household, introduce one dog at a time.
- Try to be relaxed, calm, and speak in a cheerful tone - if you get excited, pull on a leash, or speak in a harsh tone, it may start a fight.
- Regardless of how they've done outside, be especially aware that attitudes may change when the dogs come in the house, where possessions or territory may come into play.