



Dog-to-Dog Introduction: The Pack Dynamic Protocol

A Quick-Reference Guide for a Safe and Seamless Integration.



The Golden Rule: Manage the Environment

Dogs do not need to be forced into liking each other. They require space, calm energy, and predictable structure. Forced interaction creates conflict; controlled freedom creates trust.



Scenario A: The Same-Day Home Introduction

Used when bringing your newly adopted companion home to your resident dog.

Phase 1: The Reset Walk (Non-Negotiable)

- Have a family member bring your resident dog a block away from the house.
- Walk both dogs in the same direction, keeping 5-10 metres apart.
- Do not allow a face-to-face greeting. Let them assess each other through parallel movement.

Phase 2: The Clean Slate

- Before entering, ensure ALL food bowls, toys, beds, and chews are removed from the house. (This eliminates 90% of conflict triggers).

Phase 3: Garden First, House Second

- Allow the new dog to explore your garden alone for 5-10 minutes.
- Bring your resident dog out. Let them co-exist in the yard without pressure.
- Walk both dogs into the house calmly as a team. No excitement at the door.



Scenario B: Pre-Adoption Neutral Ground Meeting


Used when a pre-adoption meeting is required to confirm a match. This must NEVER happen at the current owner's home.


- **Parallel Walk:** Walk in the same direction, maintaining distance.
- **Location:** Choose a quiet, open space (like a low-traffic park).
- **The 3-Second Sniff:** Only if both dogs show *Green Flags* (loose body, soft eyes), allow a brief 3-second rear sniff, then call them away immediately.
- **Disengage Early:** End the interaction while it is still calm. A boring interaction is a highly successful interaction.



Reading the Room: Canine Body Language

Understanding subtle canine signals is essential for preventing escalation and maintaining a safe, low-arousal environment.

 **Green Flags (Proceed Calmly):** Loose body, soft eyes, play bows, respectful taking turns sniffing, or completely ignoring each other (a great sign!).

 **Red Flags (Create Space Immediately):** Stiff/frozen posture, hard staring, lip curling, showing whites of the eyes ("whale eye"), or a low growl. *A growl is communication, not bad behaviour. Respect it and create distance.*



The First 72 Hours

Your only goal is **peaceful coexistence**, not immediate friendship. Supervise all interactions, separate them when unsupervised, and reward calm, ignoring behaviour.