



INTRODUCING YOUR NEW MUTTVILLE DOG TO **YOUR RESIDENT DOG**

Here are some tips to help ensure a long & happy relationship between your new mutt & resident dog.

FIRST INTERACTIONS

First, plan to have the dogs meet on neutral ground, such as the local park, with another person there to help handle the mutts.

GO FOR A LOOSE LEASH WALK

The dogs can feel anxious energy, so keep the leashes loose and the energy relaxed. Start by walking them 10-15 feet apart, and slowly get closer to each other. If this is going well, you can then let the leashes drag, or you can take the leashes off completely (only if in an enclosed space).

REWARD A POSITIVE INTERACTION

In happy, silly voices (no treats!) reward positive interactions. We want each initial interaction to end on a good note.

SETUP YOUR HOME FOR SUCCESS

Once at home, let them settle in, but make sure you've put away your resident dog's toys, bones, and food bowls first, since these items may be sources of conflict.

SETUP AND STICK WITH A ROUTINE

Plan on having your new mutt get on the resident dog's routine, e.g. walking, feeding, potty breaks, etc. This will help them get acclimated to one another. With feeding, remember to feed on opposite sides of the room and to pick up the dish as soon as they're done eating.

KEEP THE DOGS SEPARATED UNLESS SUPERVISED FOR AT LEAST A WEEK.

You'd hate to come home to find out there has been a scuffle! You can separate the dogs by using a crate, a spare bedroom or section off a portion of your home using baby gates.

STAY AWARE

Be mindful of any guarding behavior over people, food, beds, or other resources. Most dogs can share a home in harmony once they've gradually become accustomed to each other over time.