



### ***Dog Meet Dog***

The following instructions on introducing dogs two dogs are only intended for dogs that do not have a history of doing damage to other dogs. They may be dogs completely lacking in experience, dogs that have curiously sniffed or gently played with other dogs in the past, but they display have not been aggressive to other dogs. Even under these circumstances the introduction can be stressful.

Ideally the first introduction takes place outside on neutral territory. Have both dogs on leash. Each person handling a dog should have really tasty treats on them so they can reward each dog for calm behavior. Start with the dogs about 50 feet apart. Walk the dogs in the same direction, parallel to each other. The dogs can have treats as they walk. If you run out of space, turn and go the other direction, just make sure both dogs are walking in the same directions. If either dog is pulling towards the other dog, barking or not behaving in a calm fashion, increase the distance between the two dogs until you have found the distance both dogs can walk calmly. Once you have 3 laps of both dogs walking calmly decrease the distance between the two

dogs by 2-5 feet. Continue this process of increasing distance when the dogs are overly excited and decreasing the distance when you have multiple calm laps until the dogs are walking side by side.

Once you have the dog walking side by side, have one dog walk in front to the other. Let the dog that is behind go up for a butt sniff but keep both dogs walking. Then switch which dog is in front and which dog is in back getting to sniff.

At this point you can probably let the dogs sniff play and interact more normally but be careful. Make sure there is not food, bones or toys available that either dog would be likely to fight over.