

# Making Introductions Properly

## Setting Your Dogs Up for Success

We are here to help! If you have concerns with your new pet, please get in touch and we can help you navigate this introductory period.

**Proper introductions are key to forming good relationships between your dogs, preventing fights, and decreasing stress**

When you bring a rescue home from the BVSPCA, keep in mind that we don't always know their backgrounds or histories

### How to Make Proper Introductions

- Dogs should have already been introduced at the BVSPCA Centre, but reintroductions should be done again, properly managed once in the home.
- Keep both dogs with a leash dragging for the first few days so they can be easily separated/moved if necessary.
- Do not disrupt your dog's normal routine of walking, feeding and play. Ensure your dog is getting equal attention to your new dog.
- There may be barking, growling, tail wagging or marking. This is ok. If overt aggression or a fight occurs, separate the dogs and try again later. Be very careful to ensure safety.
- Ensure each dog has their own separate "safe space" with bowls, toys, and beds so there is no competition.

### A Few Other Tips

- Either dog may hide or avoid each other. Give them time to gain confidence. Do not force play or interaction between the dogs.
- **Do not leave pets together unsupervised until they have fully accepted each other and you are certain they are safe. This may take weeks or months. It will take TIME.**
- Some pets become companions, while others simply tolerate each other. The ability of pets to get along depends on their individual personalities.

