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Aug 2 2005  
Date

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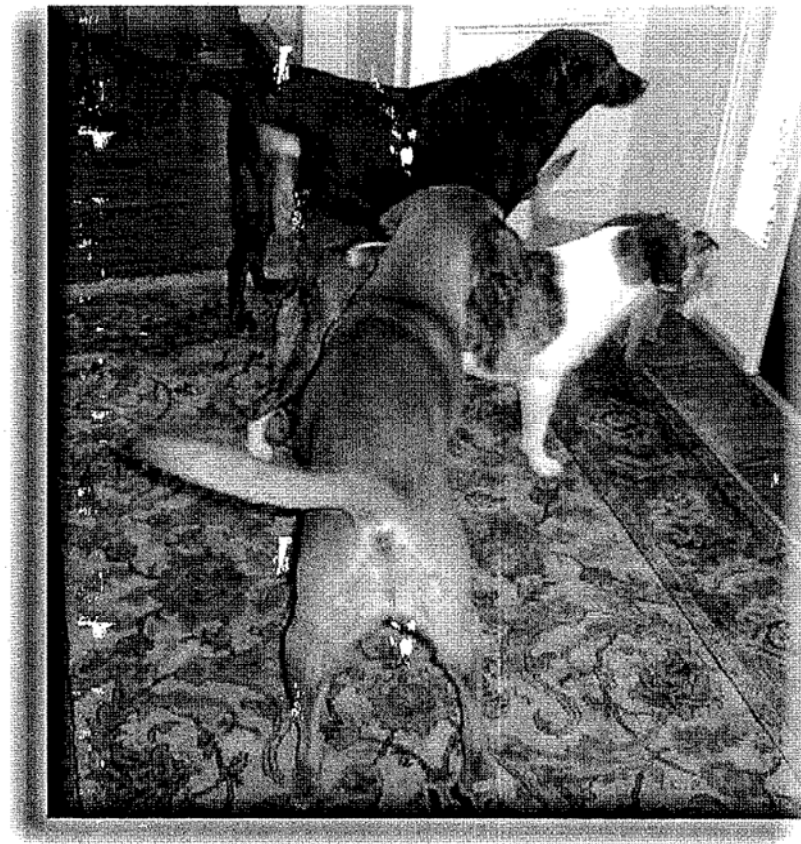
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## LEERBURG VIDEO & KENNEL



# Introducing a New Dog into a Home with Other Dogs

By Ed Frawley  
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**Introducing a new dog into a home that already has another dog is not a simple task. Many people think they can just introduce them and then let them work out the relationship. That's a formula for a dog fight.**

**Dogs are pack animals. The average pet owner does not have a clue about how strong the genetic instincts are that float under the fur of their lovable pet. The average person does not realize how the addition of a second or third dog will trigger a genetic pack drive response in their best friend.**

**Yesterday, I had a lady write me who has a serious problem. She owns 30 dogs, these people are called dog collectors. She takes in strays and keeps the majority of them as house dogs. This woman realizes that she has an obsessive compulsive disorder.**

**As obvious as it is, this lady has created a dog pack and seen some awesome dog fights. The fact is that the genetic instincts that control this 30 dog pack are no different than the instincts that start to flow in a 3 dog pack...**

**Here are some of the issues that develop when people build a dog pack:**

- **Dogs are territorial (like wolves)**
- **They have a pack or rank order which includes a pack leader. Every dog in the pack knows it's rank**
- **The worst dog fights are amount bitches (they are fierce)**
- **When fights begin, dogs will gang up on the weaker or newer dog**
- **Some lower rank dogs will turn and run at the mere sound of a fight**
- **Once attacked a dog will always be leery of meeting new dogs. Many will automatically become fighters the rest of their lives.**

**The goal of introducing a new dog into a family which already has other dogs comes down to "bringing another member into the family pack". If done properly this can usually (not always) be accomplished without a dog fight.**

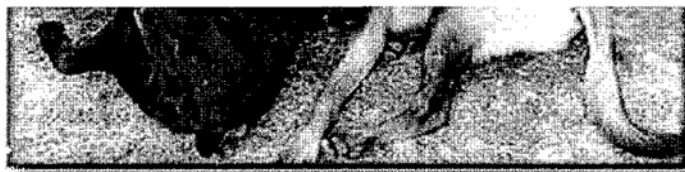
**The wrong way to do it is to bring a new dog into the home and allow the dogs to work things out themselves. That's like asking for Monday night wrestling in your front room.**

**The right way to introduce a new dog is with the aide of a dog crate. Put the new dog in a dog crate in the house where the other dogs can go up and look at and smell it. If there is growling, correct the older house dogs for showing any sign of aggression.**

**If need be, I will put prong collars on the house dogs and let them drag a leash. If they growl I will give a hard correction. Remember, YOU are the pack leader in this family. Pack leaders determine when the pack members get aggressive. Your house dogs genetically understand this. If you have a rank problem with your relationship then this may not be the case.**

**The pack leader is the one who determines if and when a dog will fight. So if your position in the pack is firm (as a result of solid obedience training) a correction for growling will tell the house dog that "YOU WILL NOT ALLOW AGGRESSION TOWARDS THIS NEW DOG."**





There is no reason to rush the introduction of a new dog into your home. Let the dogs' only contact be after several weeks. During the first weeks the only time they are around one another is when they are in dog crates. After enough time passes they will begin to learn that this is not really a stranger, but a new member of the family pack.

So for the first three weeks (or as long as it takes) when you want the new dog to be loose in the house, the old dogs are either in a different room or in their dog crate. Over time it will become obvious that the new dog is now a pack member. But remember not to rush the process.

If you are introducing an adult dog into a home with other adult dogs you should be spending this beginning time period establishing your bond with the new dog. This is done through grooming, walks, play, and obedience training.

Establishing your relationship with the new dog results in it accepting you as the boss (or pack leader). Read the article I have written titled Dealing with the Dominant Dog. Even if you don't have a dominant dog, this article lays out the subtle ground rules for establishing yourself as the leader.

When you have determined that the time has come to allow the dogs to be together, it's always better to let this happen in a strange location. In other words, someplace that neither dog recognizes as their own personal territory. Take them away from the house or back yard.

The introduction is always done on a loose leash (with prong collars) so you always have control of the situation. A tight leash can cause a dog to be frustrated and could possibly trigger an aggressive response. If there is any question about the dogs getting alone introduce them on either side of a chain link fence. They can sniff and check one another out without getting into a real fight.

When the dogs are allowed to meet face to face. Allow them to sniff one another. Talk to them in a happy voice. Keep the meeting short. Then take them for a walk together. If there is any growling a VERY STRONG VERBAL NO !! Command is given and they are separated.

In extreme cases where you are not sure of what may happen, both dogs should have a muzzle on. We offer inexpensive plastic Jafco muzzles which work just fine. That way if there is a fight the dogs will not get injured and you can step in and break up the fight

If you screw up (and mistakes are ALWAYS handler mistakes) NEVER STEP IN AND TRY TO BREAK UP A FIGHT BY YOURSELF IF THE DOGS DON'T HAVE MUZZLES. In fact you should read the article I have written on how to break up a dog fight without get hurt.

When I introduce 2 adult dogs I do not allow any posturing. This means one dog trying to show dominance over the other. You will see one dog "T" off to the other. It will put it's head over the top shoulder of the other dog and press down. This is the beginning of showing dominance. (see the photo below)





**If there are concerns at this point I will continue the exposure to one another away from the house for a few days. I will take them for walks together but they will remain on leash. If need be I will walk one dog while a friend walks the other. Prong collars and leashes are a must here.**

**If there is the slightest possibility of aggression use a muzzle. At the first sign of posturing you should be giving firm verbal warnings. If that does not work, then a very firm correction is required to show the dog that "you are the pack leader and he must listen to you".**

**When the back yard is working, then you can allow the dogs to be loose together in the house. Make them wear a drag line. I will also have one dog go lay down and stay in one spot and then the other dog will do a down stay in a different spot. It will become very clear who is the boss (ME !!)**

**Again, use a muzzle if there is question. If you have two potential problem dogs, never feed them together. Feed them in their dog crates. Never leave food out for the dogs.**

**Also never allow dogs on the furniture or on your bed. That's just asking for dominance problems with the dogs. You will have enough pack juices flowing in your dogs without allowing things to happen that increase these pack drives.**

**One of the most common causes of dog fights in the home are fights over food and toys. Never allow the dogs to be together with toys. Toys are triggers for dog fights. The bottom line on this process is that owners should always err on the side of caution. Go slow and don't try and skip steps. That's when problems develop.**

**Keep one last thing in mind. There are some dogs that no matter what you do they will never accept another dog. Keep an open mind about this when you try to introduce dogs. What this means is the owner has a decision. Either find another home for one dog or accept the fact that these dogs will always have to be kept separated with dog crates or separate dog kennels for their entire life.**

**Also those people who tell you to just put the dogs together and let them work it out are drop dead stupid. They have not seen the damage a serious fight can cause.**

## **DOG PARKS**

**With all of this said you can see why I am not a fan of the "DOG PARKS" that cities around the country are beginning to put up. I caution people who bring their dogs to these places. I would never do it.**

**It's survival of the fittest and dog fights at these dog parks. The same goes for many of these "Doggie Day Care" places. Before allowing your pet to**

spend time at a day care, go and see how it is run.

If they use crates and introduce dogs slowly then it's a well run establishment. If they just toss dogs in a big room and stand back and watch, then don't do business with them. It's only a matter of time before a bigger, badder actor shows up. The thing about dog fights is that it's not always the biggest dog that's the toughest dog.

Once a dog is attacked it is almost always dog aggressive for the rest of its life. Once a dog is attacked it will almost always be very leary of new dogs. Many dogs take the approach that the best thing to do with a strange dog is to attack first before you are attacked.



This photo represents a huge problem. Allowing dogs to lie on furniture is only asking for dog fights and dominance issues. In this case these dogs almost killed the litter dog on the back of the couch before the owner made the necessary changes to stop the dog fights he was having.

## Emails from people:

I am in the process of reading a couple of articles on your website with regards to dog aggressive dogs, but I'm not exactly sure that is what my dog is and I'm hoping you can steer me in the right direction. When my male was a puppy, the next door neighbors dog snagged his paw through the fence. Since then he, of course, has been very cautious about other dogs. He gets along great with all of my female dogs (go figure) BUT, if I take him anywhere I can not get his attention away from other dogs to save my life, and it's not like he's wanting to fight, of course I don't let him get close enough even if he wanted to, but I'm going to start training him for competition soon and it's very hard to do that when I take him out on the field for obedience and instead of paying attention to me he's paying attention to everyone elses dog. What on earth is this all about and how do I solve this problem. His attention is completely on me when we are training at home. Prong collar has been used and I hate to put electric on him when I'm not sure what is going on here, I don't want to cause more problems if I don't have to. Can you please give me some guidance. Thanks much.

Karrie Adams

## QUESTION ON INTRODUCING DOGS:

Hi,

I have 3 Cocker Spaniel puppies all from the same litter. They are 5 months old. One is female and the other 2 are male. The one male is getting to be very aggressive when treats are handed out or when chew treats are handed out. He will go to one of the other puppies (more than likely the female) and sit and watch her and growl at her until she either gets up and walks away and leaves her chew/treat or she will jump up at him and they will start to fight. I haven't started obedience training on them yet, but I do plan on doing this. Is there anything that I can do to help stop what he is doing until I can get them trained? Please help and let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Tessa

## ANSWER:

What you are doing in raising 3 littermates or three dogs of the same age is a terrible idea. You have not even begun to see the problems you are going to have.

Keep reading my web site.

Read the articles on [Q&A on Dominance, dogs fights](#), and the [Article on Dealing with a Dominant Dog](#). You can read about this on my web site in the list of [training articles](#). Read the article I wrote on why it's a terrible idea to try and raise two pups at the same time (and you are trying 3).

Find a home for one of the males or keep all of them separated with dog crates or dog kennels.

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## QUESTION ON INTRODUCING DOGS:

Good Afternoon: Is it ok for a 2 1/2 year old dog be dominant over a new puppy as long as they both view their human owners as "the pack leader"?

I have a 2 1/2 year old male Pitbull Bullmastiff mix (we've had him since a puppy) and we just rescued a 5 month old full breed female Pitbull. The older dog is not aggressive and very accepting of other dogs but I would characterize him as more "dominant". I don't believe he's dominant over us (my husband and I) I just think he knows he the pack leader among other dogs.

Anyway, the new puppy is here and he is not hurting her or anything of that sort. He is sharing his stuff and everything. He just continues to show his dominance towards her. Tries to pin her down and lay on top of her. She loves it. I assume she thinks he is playing with her. Is that ok? Can't they/we live harmoniously w/ one submissive dog and one dominant one? What do you see as our fate based on what I've told you?

Thank You.

Angela

## ANSWER:

This is 100% wrong.

Read the article I wrote on [How to Introduce a New Dog Into a Home with Existing Dogs](#).

Read the article I wrote titled [DEALING WITH A DOMINANT DOG](#).



We would never consider doing what you are doing. We do not allow an adult dog like this to interact in any way with a puppy. Not for months and months and then only under supervision.

If you cannot deal with controlling your dogs with dog crates and training then find a new home for this puppy.

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## QUESTION ON INTRODUCING DOGS:

Ten days ago, I adopted a 1 year old, recently spayed and vaccinated female chihuahua.

She was given to the shelter for being bad with children.

The shelter staff told me that they could not get near her for a week, that she was nervous, afraid, etc.

She was sweet and friendly to my husband, my 10 year old neutered male chihuahua and myself- at the shelter.

So, she sat on my lap for the 2 1/2 hour ride home- I wanted her in a crate in the back seat with my other dog, but she struggled against going in it. I didn't have a muzzle and I knew she was nervous, so I figured we could bond on the ride (big mistake number 1?). I didn't want to get bitten and destroy our relationship from the beginning.

My husband pet her every time she nudged him. I ignored that because it's dominant. (I have years of past dog experience from working as shelter staff and a veterinary technician) I told her "No" for play biting, gave her water and a couple of treats.

Anyway, her doggie brain figured "Hey, this guy pets me on command and that other dog is in the back seat. This woman here is my leader and I'm next in command!"

I say this, because she ran into our apartment, peed on the kitchen floor, then the living room rug, then on the bed. (Urine marking!) I made her get out of the bedroom and never let her back in there again. I also gave her a firm "No!" and took her outside...

Then she grabbed a rawhide bone from the floor, snarled and lunged at my other dog, and growled at my husband.

I got her in the crate. I decided that this dog is dominant aggressive and territorial aggressive.

Now I'm going through the door first. I'm giving her the toys and treats, not leaving them on the floor. She's riding in a carrier in the car in the same spot as my other dog, I'm feeding her- after she lays down on command, etc. She recognizes me as her leader. She didn't want to get in the carrier, so I muzzled her and physically made her go in -NOT abusively, just firm.

Now, she goes in it- no problem.

BUT, (and sorry for the long history, I thought it would help you to get the whole picture)

she is trying to attack my husband every time he comes near me. (Only when he approaches me or touches me- not when they're alone) She is trying to scare my other dog out of the room and lunges and growls at him. He is SO submissive and just creeps away. He never puts up a fight and I do NOT interfere with the "pack order". I pet HER first, give her the treats first, let her go out the door after me, before my older dog, etc.

I need her to know that I will NOT allow aggression towards my husband and my other dog.

For the last week, I have kept her on a leash. When she growls at my other dog or my husband, I snap the leash and give her a firm "no!". It takes about three snaps and corrections, then she calms down. Then I tell her "good", pet her and maybe give her treats.

My husband is starting to get very irritated by her attacking him. I started having doubts about my training method, thinking that maybe if I'm correcting her and saying "no" she will associate it with my husband and attack him more.

I decided that I could use a little help and got a trainer to come to my home for a private consultation today. He told me that 95% of aggression is fear aggression. I could swear that this dog is dominant and territorial! He tried using a clicker and I said I don't like those things, so he used his voice instead and kept giving her treats and saying "yes". He also said her name, and if she looked at him, he talked all squeaky and high pitched for a "minimum of 30 seconds".

He wants me to throw treats at her every time my husband is around. I see the positive connection there, but how do I let her know that I won't tolerate the aggression?! He says I shouldn't say "no" to my dog...

and that I shouldn't give leash corrections and that this will make her fear and aggression greater. Well, she ended up trying to attack this trainer three times, and I wasted my money. Next time I would be smarter and ask if they have experience with aggression.

All that guy did was confuse me and make my dog nuts. She highly disrespected him. She has never, ever behaved that way with me and I just met her 10 days ago.

What do YOU think? I know how you feel about those food bribery trainers and I trust your opinion more. Am I doing this the right way? Any modifications I need to make to be more effective? Is what I'm doing going to stop this dog from being possessive over me? If she is guarding me, does it mean that she really doesn't respect me as the pack leader because she feels the need to protect me? Or is she just afraid that someone will harm or take away the best thing in her life?

She was given many vaccinations and a spay surgery all in the same week, as well as being under enormous stress in the shelter. If this is vaccination induced aggression, will it get better?

Any tips? Any and all advice will be greatly appreciated! I'm not in the mood for silly food-bribery and squeaky talk- which is why I'm asking YOU! (Although, I won't physically hurt her either)

Thanks for reading so much!  
Stacey

## ANSWER:

I recommend that you go to my web site and read the article I wrote on my philosophy of dog training. I think you will get some good ideas there.

Your problems are more of an owner problem than a dog problem.

I suggest that you read the article I wrote on how to introduce a new dog into a home with existing dogs. The work in this article is compounded when you have a weak nerved dog.

Bottom line is you should be doing this work for a month or two before you even consider doing what you are doing now.

You will probably find that you have not had the full picture on the steps of training a dog. Your dog must go through training steps before it can be considered fully trained.

You will read why I am not a fan of taking an untrained dog to obedience classes. No professional dog trainer would ever take his dog to an obedience class with 15 or 20 untrained dogs and try and train it there. Its crazy. The dogs cannot concentrate with the distractions.

I think if you read the testimonials on my DVD you will see that my customers feel the same way.

If you make the decision to learn to train - get a prong collar. You can read about it on my web site. There is an article I wrote (with a number of excellent photos) on how to fit a prong collar, you can also read about the different types of prongs.

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## Leerburg Kennels

### Training Commands

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"This table was constructed by M. Plonsky, Ph.D. Mark is a psychology professor at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. He has an excellent [dog training website here](#).

Mark can be reached at: [mplonsky@uwsp.edu](mailto:mplonsky@uwsp.edu)

[Commands the KNPV uses in training \(click here\)](#)

ENGLISH	GERMAN	FRENCH	CZECH	HUNGARIAN
Heel	Fuss (Fooss)	Au pied (oh-pee-aye)	K Noze	La'Bhoz
Sit	Setz	Assis (Ah-see)	Sedni	UI
Stay	Bleib	Reste	Stuy (Vstan)	Ott Maradsz
Down	Platz	Couche (coo-shay)	Lehni	Fekszik
Come	Hier	Ici (E see)	Kemne	Gyere 'de
Stand	Steh (Shtay)	Debout (da-boo)	Zustan	A'll
Retrieve/ Fetch	Bring (Brrring)	Apporter (Aport)	Aport	Hozd
Jump	Hop	Saute (soot) or Aller	Vpred	ugorj (ugrik)
Go out	Voraus	En Avant (Onn-Avauhnn)	Vpred	Elore
Track	Such (Suuk)	Pistage (piss-ta-ahshh)	Hledey	Keresd
Guard	Pass auf	Garde (guard)	Pozor	Figyelj
Bite	Packen, stell	Attaque	Drz	Fogd
Out/Let go	Aus (Ows)	Halte (Alt) or Donner (donaye)	Pust	Ereszd
Speak/Bark	Gib laut (Geblout)	Aboie (ah-bwaa)	Stekey	Ugass - Koszonj
Narcotics	Rauschgift	Drogue	Hledej oznac	Szagold
Find Narcotics	such Rauschgift	Cherche Narcotics	Drogy	Keresd - Szagold

<b>Building/ Blind Search</b>	<b>Voran or Revier</b>	<b>Cherche (Sherch)</b>	<b>Revir</b>	<b>Furkessz</b>
<b>Kennel</b>	<b>Zwinger</b>	<b>Chenil</b>	<b>Kotec</b>	<b>Kennel</b>

**QUESTION:**

I just received and watched your video "Training the Agility Dog," and I thought it was excellent.

My question though, is: I have an eight month old rottie pup which I have obedience trained using English commands and hand signals. He will do what I want with hand signals even if I don't say the command. I am the only one training him and I was wanting to continue hand signals but switch to German, French, Czech, or Hungarian commands. Will this be possible, and will it help or hurt our training? What do you think?

Tyson Percy

**ANSWER:**

I think you will confuse your dog. Pick one set of commands and stick with it. You will screw up trying to make a dog learn several languages.

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## Obedience Dog Training Commands

### In Five Languages

Below is a chart of common obedience dog training commands in five different languages. In parentheses is the English pronunciation of the dog training command.

ENGLISH	GERMAN	FRENCH	CZECH	DUTCH
<b><u>Heel</u></b>	Fuss (fooss)	Au pied (oh-pee-aye)	K noze (kno zay)	left=Volg right= Rechts
<b><u>Sit</u></b>	Sitz (siitz)	Assis (ah-see)	Sedni (said nee)	Zit
<b><u>Stay</u></b>	Bleib (bly'b)	Reste (rest)	Zustan	Blijf
<b><u>Down</u></b>	Platz	Coucher (coo-shay)	Lehni (leh nee)	Af/ Liggen
<b><u>Come/Here</u></b>	Hier (hee er)	Ici(e see)/ Viens	Ke mne (khemn yea)	Hier
<b><u>Stand</u></b>	Steh (shtay)	Debout (da-boo)	Stuj (stuuya)	Staan
<b><u>Retrieve/ Fetch</u></b>	Bring (jrrring)	Rapporte (aport)	Aport	Apport
<b><u>Jump</u></b>	Hopp	Saute (soot)/ Aller	Skoc/ Hop	Over
<b><u>Go Out</u></b>	Voraus (for owss)	En Avant (onn-avauhnn)	Vpred (va porshed)	Voruit
<b><u>Track</u></b>	Such (tsuuk)	Piste (piss-te)	Stopa	Keuring/ Zoek
<b><u>Guard</u></b>	Pass auf/ Wache	Garde (guard)	Pozor	Bewaken (bay-wawken)
<b><u>Bite</u></b>	Packen/ Fass	Attaque/ Mord	Drz (dursh)	Stellen

<b><u>Out/Let Go</u></b>	<u>Aus</u> (owss)	<u>Halte(alt)/</u> <u>Donne</u> (don-aye)	<u>Pust</u> (pusht)	<u>Los/Loslaten</u> (those-lawten)
<b><u>Speak/Bark</u></b>	<u>Gib Laut</u> (geblout)	<u>Aboie</u> (ah-bwaa) <u>Parle</u>	<u>Stekej</u> (esteke)	<u>Blaffen</u> (blauffen) <u>Luid</u>
<b><u>Narcotics/</u></b> <b><u>Dope</u></b>	<u>Rauschgift</u>	<u>Droque</u>	<u>Hledej oznac</u>	
<b><u>Find</u></b> <b><u>narcotics</u></b>	<u>Such</u> <u>Rauschgift</u>		<u>Drogy</u>	
<b><u>Building/</u></b> <b><u>Blind Search</u></b>	<u>Voran/</u> <u>Revier</u>	<u>Cherche</u> (Sherch)	<u>Revir</u> (revere)	<u>Revieren</u> (ray-fee-eren)
<b><u>Kennel/</u></b> <b><u>Crate</u></b>	<u>Zwinger/</u> <u>Box</u>	<u>Chenil</u>	<u>Kotec</u>	<u>Hok/</u> <u>Kennel</u>
<b><u>Go Outside</u></b>	<u>Geh Raus/</u> <u>Geh Draussen</u>	<u>Dehors</u>	<u>Jdi ven</u>	<u>Naar Buiten</u>
<b><u>Go Ahead</u></b>	<u>Geh Voraus</u>	<u>Vas</u>	<u>Volno</u>	<u>Voor uit/</u> <u>Vrij</u>
<b><u>Go Inside</u></b>	<u>Geh rein</u> (gay rine)	<u>Monte/</u> <u>Entre</u>	<u>Pojd sem</u>	<u>Ga de in</u>
<b><u>What is</u></b> <b><u>going on?</u></b>	<u>Was ist los?</u>	<u>Qu'est ce</u> <u>qui ce passe?</u>	<u>Co je to?</u>	
<b><u>Good (praise)</u></b>	<u>So ist brav</u>	<u>Bon Garcon</u> (bon gar-scon)	<u>Hodny</u> (hout nee)	<u>Braaf/</u> <u>Goedzo</u>
<b><u>Correction</u></b> <b><u>Word "No"</u></b>	<u>Pfui (fooe)</u> <u>Nein (nine)</u>	<u>Non/Mauvais/</u> <u>Mechant</u>	<u>Fui (pfui)</u>	<u>Foei</u>
<b><u>Don't</u></b> <b><u>do that!</u></b>	<u>Lass das sein</u>	<u>Ne fais</u> <u>pas ca</u>	<u>Fui (pfui)</u>	<u>Nee</u>
<b><u>OK</u></b>	<u>In Ordnung</u>	<u>D'accord</u>	<u>Vyborne</u>	
<b><u>Eat food</u></b>	<u>Nimm Futter</u>	<u>Mange</u>	<u>Vem si</u>	
<b><u>Helper</u></b> <b><u>Stand Still</u></b>	<u>Bleiben Ruhig/</u> <u>Steht Noch</u>	<u>Toi, ne</u> <u>bouge pas</u>	<u>Ruce vzhuru</u>	
<b><u>Article</u></b> <b><u>Search</u></b>	<u>Such Verloren</u>	<u>Recherche D'article</u>	<u>Hledej</u> <u>Oznac</u>	<u>Zoek</u>
<b><u>Leave it</u></b>	<u>Lass es</u>	<u>Laisse/</u> <u>pas Touche</u> (pa-too-shay)	<u>Nech to</u>	<u>Los</u>

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## Obedience Dog Training

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### Introducing a New Dog into the Home

By Joseph L. Bickel

Introducing a new dog into a home that already has another dog is not a simple task. Many people think they can just introduce them and then let them work out the relationship. That's a formula for a dog fight.

Dogs are pack animals. The average pet owner does not have a clue about how strong the genetic instincts are. The average person does not realize how the addition of a second or third dog will trigger a genetic pack drive response in their best friend.

Here are some of the issues that develop when people build a dog pack:

- Dogs are territorial (like wolves)
- They have a pack or rank order which included a pack leader. Every dog in the pack knows its rank
- The worst dog fights are among bitches (they are fierce)
- When fights begin dogs will gang up on the weaker or newer dog
- Some lower rank dogs will turn and run at the mere sound of a fight
- Once attacked a dog will always be leery of meeting new dogs. Many will automatically become fighters the rest of their lives.

The goal of introducing a new dog into a family which already has other dogs comes down to "bringing another member into the family pack". If done properly this can usually (not always) be accomplished without a dog fight.

The wrong way to do it is to bring a new dog into the home and allow the dogs to work things out themselves.

The right way to introduce a new dog is with the aid of a dog crate. Put the new dog in a dog crate in the house where the other dogs can go up and look at and smell it. If there is growling, correct the older house dogs for showing any sign of aggression.

I will put correction collars on the house dogs and let them drag a leash. If they growl I will give a hard correction. Remember, YOU are the pack leader in this family. Pack leaders determine when the pack members get aggressive. Your house dogs genetically understand this. If you have a rank

problem with your relationship then this may not be the case.

The pack leader is the one who determines if and when a dog will fight. So if your position in the pack is firm (as a result of solid obedience training) a correction for growling will tell the house dog that "YOU WILL NOT ALLOW AGGRESSION TOWARDS THIS NEW DOG."

There is no reason to rush the introduction of a new dog into your home. Let the dogs only contact be after several weeks. During the first weeks the only time they are around one another is when they are in dog crates. After enough time passes they will begin to learn that this is not really a stranger, but a new member of the family pack.

So for the first three weeks (or as long as it takes) when you want the new dog to be loose in the house, the old dogs are either in a different room or in their dog crate. Over time it will become obvious that the new dog is now a pack member. But remember not to rush the process.

If you are introducing an adult dog into a home with other adult dogs you should be spending this time establishing your bond with the new dog. This is done through grooming, walks, play, and obedience training.

Establishing your relationship with the new dog results in it accepting you as the boss (or pack leader).

When you have determined that the time has come to allow the dogs to be together, it's always better to let this happen in a strange location. In other words, someplace that neither dog recognizes as their own personal territory. Take them away from the house or back yard.

The introduction is always done on a loose leash with correction collars so you always have control of the situation. A tight leash can cause a dog to be frustrated and could possibly trigger an aggressive response. If there is any question about the dogs getting alone introduce them on either side of a chain link fence. They can sniff and check one another out without getting into a real fight.

When the dogs are allowed to meet face to face. Allow them to sniff one another. Talk to them in a happy voice. Keep the meeting short. Then take them for a walk together. If there is any growling a VERY STRONG VERBAL NO !! Command is given and they are separated.

In extreme cases where you are not sure of what may happen, both dogs should wear a muzzle. That way if there is a fight the dogs will not get injured and you can step in and break up the fight.

If you screw up (and mistakes are ALWAYS handler mistakes) NEVER STEP IN AND TRY TO BREAK UP A FIGHT BY YOURSELF IF THE DOGS DON'T HAVE MUZZLES.

When I introduce 2 adult dogs I do not allow any posturing. This means one dog trying to show dominance over the other. You will see one dog "T" off to the other. It will put its head over the top shoulder of the other dog and press down. This is the beginning of showing dominance.

If there are concerns at this point I will continue the exposure to one another away from the house for a few days. I will take them for walks together but they will remain on leash. If need be I will walk one dog while a friend walks the other. Correction collars and leashes are a must here.

If there is the slightest possibility of aggression use a muzzle. At the first sign of posturing you should be giving firm verbal warnings. If that does not work, then a very firm correction is required to show the dog that "you are the pack leader and he must listen to you".

When the back yard is working, then you can allow the dogs to be loose together in the house. Make them wear a drag line. I will also have one dog go lay down and stay in one spot and then the

other dog will do a down stay in a different spot. It will become very clear who is the boss.

Again, use a muzzle if there is question. If you have two potential problem dogs, never feed them together. Feed them in their crates. Never leave food out for the dogs.

Also never allow dogs on the furniture or on your bed. That is just asking for dominance problems with the dogs. You will have enough pack juices flowing in your dogs without allowing things to happen that increase these pack drives.

One of the most common causes of dog fights in the home are fights over food and toys. Never allow the dogs to be together with toys. Toys are triggers for dog fights. The bottom line on this process is that owners should always error on the side of caution. Go slow and don't try and skip steps. That's when problems develop.

Keep one last thing in mind. There are some dogs that no matter what you do they will never accept another dog. Keep an open mind about this when you try and introduce dogs. What this means is the owner has a decision. Either find another home for one dog or accept the fact that these dogs will always have to be kept separated with dog crates or separate dog kennels for their entire life.

Also those people who tell you to just put the dogs together and let them work it out are drop dead stupid. They have not seen the damage a serious fight can cause.

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