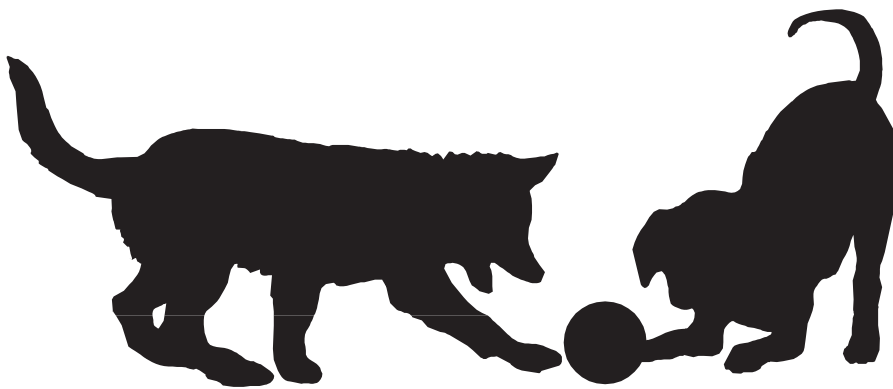


# Getting A Second Dog

The main thing to think about before getting a second dog is space. Is there enough space in your home for each dog to have their own place to retreat?

If the new dog is a puppy, the adjustment is usually smooth. If the new dog is an adult, you will need to proceed with more caution. An ideal combination is a neutered male and a spayed female. Trickier are two females, because they often do not get along. More difficult are two males, because they will both want to establish dominance by fighting. (Neutered males are a bit easier). Try to determine if the dog's breed profile suggests dominance. Avoid combinations of two dominant dogs or dogs whose breed tends to be aggressive towards other dogs.



## TIPS:

- Introduce new dogs outside on loose leashes in a neutral area to avoid territorial disputes. If you can, take the dogs for a walk together. The dogs will use their body language to establish hierarchy. Maintain loose leashes at all times. Some dogs may sniff, play, and romp around together. Use a happy, positive tone of voice to show you are pleased with any positive behavior.
- After the first meeting take the dogs into your back yard and let them run around together. Both dogs should still have their collars on with a leash attached to it. Let the dogs run around while dragging their leashes and let them settle any differences themselves unless they threaten life and limb.
- When it is time to go inside introduce your new dog to your home while still on a leash. Make sure you do not favor one dog over the other. Feed both dogs at the same time, but in separate food dishes. Make sure you give adult dogs some quiet time away from the new puppy/new dog and some individual attention.

San Bernardino County  
Animal Care & Control Program  
**(800) 472-5609**

