



## Introducing Your New Muttville Dog to Your Resident Dog

Congratulations on adopting from Muttville Senior Dog Rescue! Please follow these steps to ensure a long and happy relationship between your new mutt and your resident dog:

- First, plan to have the dogs meet on neutral ground, such as the local park, with another person there to help handle the mutts.
- The dogs can feel anxious energy, **so keep the leashes loose and the energy relaxed.**
- Start by walking them 10-15 feet apart, and then slowly get closer to each other. If this is going well, you can then let the leashes drag, or you can take them off leash completely (only if in an enclosed space).
- Reward a positive interaction with happy, silly voices (no treats!) We want each initial interaction to end on a good note.
- **Once at home, let them settle in, but make sure you've put away your dog's toys, bones and food bowls first, since these items may be sources of conflict.**
- Plan on having the new mutt get on the resident dog's routine walking, feeding, etc. schedule. 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 are done eating.
- **Keep the dogs separated unless supervised for at least the first week.** You'd hate to come home to find out there has been a scuffle!
- You can separate the dogs using a crate, a spare bedroom, or section off a portion of your home using baby gates.
- Be mindful of any guarding behavior over people, food, or other resources.
- Most dogs can share a home in harmony once they've gradually become accustomed