



Boxer Rescue LA

Dog & Dog Integration

We have helped you select a Boxer that we feel has potential success at home with your resident dog(s)

It is now up to you to take the time and follow the steps to integrate everyone at home! You can do it.

With helping unfamiliar dogs bond it's a matter of building trust and avoiding conflict. You must understand that your dogs do not know each other yet and without familiar trust could over-react to simply things like play or possession. The best advice is to level the field and avoid triggers.

TEAM BUILDING:

The absolute best activity you can do to help bond your dogs is to walk them together. This is a controlled time where they are sharing experiences under your guidance. The more they walk, the more they look to each other as a partner in life to share things with and to trust. Walk as frequently as you can at first to build a bond. Every day your dogs experience positive time together (without conflict) they are building a bond for life.

AVOID CONFLICT:

Until your dogs have had enough time to build trust it is best to avoid these three common triggers: **Food, Toys & Affection**. A dog can get possessive of things that are important or are considered "theirs".

FOOD.

When you bring in a new dog, feed dogs separately. Food can be a resource many may want to guard. With time and trust you will know when and if you can feed closer.

TOYS:

With toys can come two triggers: First, toys may be viewed by some dogs as a resource that needs to be guarded. Secondly toys may cause excitement and elevate play to a level that may make one dog uncomfortable and cause an unwanted reaction. Best to just let everyone hang out under supervision and observe and learn about each other.

AFFECTION:

You are often viewed as a possession by your dog. You must understand that just like a toy or food a dog may resource guard their humans. Some see this as jealousy. This is easy to avoid by not allowing yourself to be put in the position where one dog is guarding you from the other. It can be a subtle gesture from one dog to the other so best to give everyone space. If one dog comes to you for affection and the other is looking on, simply get up and move away so you are not the focus of attention any more. Over time trust will build and dogs will realize there is enough love for all.



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FIRST DAY:

When you arrive home with your newly arranged marriage of Boxers – take some precautions to help everyone feel safe. Before you go into your property take a short walk with the dogs to shake off the car ride home. Keeping dogs on leash you can tour the house. Your new dog will be excited so keeping him on leash will avoid him overwhelming your resident dog. Then take dogs into your yard, and with leashed on, allow them to explore. Just let them be dogs while you observe and supervise.

PLAY:

We highly recommend supervising initial play sessions to ensure that excitement does not rise to a level of discomfort or fear which could cause an unwanted reaction. Let dogs play and watch body language carefully. A loose wiggly dog with open mouth is not a concern. When a dog becomes stiff, quiet, mouth closes, and gaze becomes fixed it is time to “break it up”! As demonstrated at BRLA it is best to distract a potential overreaction with a whistle or call to redirect attention back to a good place. Separate dogs if needed to have only positive time together in the beginning formative stage.

SLEEP:

Until a new dog understands his place in their new home, having them sleep in a crate prevents any overstepping of boundaries with resident dog. Plus having new dog sleep in a controlled environment also aids in house training.

Building a lifetime bond may not happen overnight with all dogs, but with time, positive interaction, supervision, lots of walking together and avoiding triggers, dogs can come to trust and love each other! Dogs are pack animals and with you as their pack leader you are on the way to a lifetime bond.