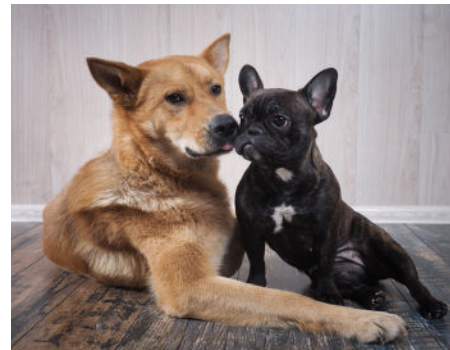


Choosing a Second Dog

Getting a second dog is exciting, but there are a few things to consider when deciding if a second dog is right for your family.

- Is it the right time to get a second dog? Do you have any big events or projects coming up? Do you have enough time to dedicate to training and socialization?
- Is your family on board? It's important that everyone be excited about the new dog.
- Are you aware of the additional time and financial commitment that comes with your new family member? It will be twice the amount of food, vet visits, vaccines, and grooming.
- What kind of dog do you want to add to the family? One that is active? A senior? A puppy?
- What is the energy level of each dog? Dogs with similar energy levels make the best companions.
- Do you have the space for two dogs?
- Will you be able to walk two dogs at once?





Now that you've decided getting a second dog works for you, consider personality, gender, age, and size as you select your next companion.

Personality

The personality of both dogs plays a part when choosing a new dog. Each dog is an individual, so there are no hard and fast rules. Consider the history, energy level, and temperament of the individual dogs.



Gender

The gender of the dogs may also come into play. The ideal combination is a male and a female. However, it varies with each dog because each relationship is unique. Just because a dog likes others or even your past dog, it's an unrealistic expectation for them to love all dogs.



Age

The age of both dogs is also important. Would your new dog annoy your older dog who may enjoy quiet time? A younger dog doesn't always bring out the "life" of an older dog. If you do choose a puppy or young dog, be prepared to provide a lot of alternatives, management, and exercise to meet the needs of both dogs.



Size

Many experts say not to have more than a 20–25 pound weight difference in size for dogs.

A lot of dogs live peacefully together, but require slow introductions, time to adjust, relationship building, meeting the needs of both dogs, training, and more to ensure both dogs feel happy and safe in your home. Each relationship is unique and the time it takes to build a good one can vary. Making sure you are doing introductions slowly and safely will ensure a long and healthy relationship for all.