



DOGGIE DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY
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BRINGING A DOG INTO A HOUSE WITH SMALL ANIMALS

There are a few simple guidelines that you should follow when teaching their new dog proper manners around small animals.

First there are a few don'ts:

1. In the beginning, NEVER leave the dog and small animals alone in the same room unsupervised.
2. Do not buy the dog any squeaky or plush toys. These can sound and feel like certain animals and can encourage the prey drive in the dog.
3. Make sure to keep any toys (such as cat toys) picked up or in an area where the dog cannot get them. Small animal toys are typically smaller than a dog's and can be a choking hazard. They also can be a source of possessive aggression between the dog and the other animal.

Next, follow the LEADERSHIP EXERCISES with the new dog, especially if there are other dogs in the house. This will help establish you as the pack leader and dictate to the dog that any other animals are part of the pack and not prey or a play toy. The rules apply to all the dogs in the house.

Always reward the dog for showing the correct behavior around any other animals. For example, if the cat comes in and the dog ignores the cat, he or she should be rewarded for this behavior by petting, giving a treat, etc.

If the dog shows signs of aggression towards the other animals, do the following:

1. Make sure the dog and the other animals are separated except during training.
2. During training, put the dog on a leash and establish a threshold. The threshold is the distance between the dog and the other animal just before the dog shows aggression towards the animal but decides not to.

3. Reward the dog for offering the correct behavior when they pay attention to you and not the other animals. Work some simple obedience commands as well to help keep the dog's attention on you.
4. Gradually decrease the distance a little at a time and increase the reward for the dog.
5. If the dog shows aggression towards the other animals at any point, move further away until the dog's attention is back on you and reward them.
6. Consistency is the key but with time and patience, the dog can create a positive association with the other animals in the house and learn the correct behavior.