

Parallel Walks

Parallel walks are a great way for two dogs to practice just peacefully coexisting with one another, without the pressure of actually having to interact. This activity is for dogs who enjoy being around other dogs. Dogs who do not like seeing other dogs will likely find this activity to be too stressful.

1. Enlist the help of a friend! You will each be walking a dog separately, and probably at a distance where you'll have to shout if you want to chit-chat.
2. Keep enough distance between the dogs that neither of the dogs cares too much about the other. They should both be relaxed enough to stop and sniff occasionally and to pay attention to the humans taking them for walks.
3. Do not, at any point, allow the dogs to greet on-leash. On-leash greetings are a common cause of dog conflicts, as the leash adds unnecessary tension to their conversation.

Adopter Highlight

This is a great way to begin the process of introducing two dogs to each other who might eventually live together. This is also a great time to talk about safely walking multiple dogs, (one handler per dog,) and talk about how adopters/fosters like to exercise their dogs. Walks aren't the only form of exercise!