

February/March
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Quote

Our perfect companions never have less than four feet (Sidonie Gabrielle Colette)

Congratulations to the Give Back Raffle Winners!!!

Your generous support of Home Again through the purchase of raffle tickets translates into us being able to rescue many more cats and dogs, bring them to optimal health, and find them forever homes.



Email: info@homeagainbancroft.ca Website: www.homeagainbancroft.ca
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Hunter's Corner



For those of you who have been following Hunter's story, you'll remember that when he first came to live with us, he was involved in several 'situations' with other dogs. At that time, in our minds he was a scrappy, semi-aggressive dog. We took measures to make sure that he didn't have free rein to bother other dogs and felt that he would always be a lone wolf.

We had occasion to be out of town and couldn't take Hunter with us. We did a trial overnight visit with a friend who both had her own dogs and fostered others – such a lively household!! We were anxious, and Hunter was a star. In fact, Hunter thrived in an environment where he was interacting with other dogs!! He was friendly, funny, accepting, and typically just happy being part of a pack.

In our zeal to protect him, we forgot that he really needed the companionship of other dogs to become more socialized. Running with other dogs also increased his mental and physical activity, and when he comes home, he's exhausted!! But happy.

The picture above is Hunter with his best friend Cleo. He met Cleo as a puppy, and the two of them are truly happiest together. They like nothing more than to play for hours and then snooze together, almost holding hands!! It's been the perfect relationship, and Hunter is much better for knowing other dogs. Sometimes having their own human who brings security and safety just isn't enough – the companionship of another dog is the icing on the cake.

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Does My Dog Need to Live With Another Dog?



THE DOG TRAINING AND BEHAVIOUR EXPERTS

Sometimes when we bring Hunter home after a visit at the farm with his bestie Cleo, we toy with the idea of getting a companion dog. Because Hunter can be a bit aggressive on his home turf, we have chosen not to have another dog, but rather to socialize him whenever and wherever possible. Having another dog seems like a good idea, but not all dogs love all dogs. Having the wrong fit can sometimes lead to aggression and even injury,

But how do you know if your dog needs a doggie friend in the home? We know that dogs are typically domesticated and social creatures. They enjoy positive interactions with both humans and other dogs and would generally prefer not to be isolated. But many dogs would prefer to be the sole pup of the house. Here are a couple of tips to determine if another dog might be a good idea for your household.

- Is my dog friendly with other dogs in their home? Some dogs are upset when another dog “invades” their home, playing with their toys and eating their food. This behaviour may exist even if there are no signs of aggression when interacting with other dogs outside of the home.
- Does my dog like other dogs? Oftentimes dogs who have been raised independently in a home do not enjoy another dog’s company in the home. If your dog seems to get anxious when another dog enters their home, they may be perfectly fine with being a single pup.
- Does your dog seem depressed after playing with other dogs? Hunter is always pooped after playing all day with Cleo the puppy. But he also seems just as happy to be home by himself.
- Does gender matter? If you’re thinking of another dog, make sure you observe your dog during a play date. Are they happier interacting with males or females, or are they indiscriminate? Hunter is happier playing with females – he will tolerate and play with males but would prefer to be adored by female girlfriends.
- Remember that there are practical considerations too. Two dogs mean double the food costs, double the vet bills and double any boarding fees should you go away. These doubled expenses can really add up!

After review and discussion, we have decided that Hunter is happier being the sole dog in our household. We make sure to bring him in contact with other dogs (Cleo!) so he gets socialization and stimulation, but at the end of the day he rules the roost in the home.

*How do I
introduce my new
cat to our
household?*



You and your family have decided that there is space in your home for a new cat – congratulations!! After spending time on the homeagainbancroft.ca website, and dropping by for a visit at Caturday, you've fallen in love with the perfect new member!! There's only one catch – you already have a resident feline! What is the best way to integrate your new cat into the household?

Your current cat may very well need a friend and will eventually welcome the companionship. However, in the beginning your cat is very likely to see the new cat as an enemy or a threat rather than as a playmate. If you initially provide structure, you should be able to minimize the animosity, and have them become friends faster, or at least coexisting peacefully!!

Before bringing a new cat or kitten home, give your house a quick scan. Do you have enough litter boxes, water or food bowls, hiding places, and time to spend with both cats? What about perches which both help them to feel safe and increases the number of places they can go?

There are a couple of issues to consider before settling on your new cat. It's usually a good idea to adopt a new cat who is roughly the same age and energy level as your current cat. Getting your cat a kitten to keep it young may seem like a great idea, but if your cat is older and set in its ways, the new kitten is more likely to be an annoyance with its constant desire to play! The most important thing is to go slowly – throwing the new cat in with the old and letting them work it out may seem like a good idea, but it's the absolute wrong thing to do. Go slow and steady with the following suggestions, and the introduction is more likely to be successful.

1. Separate the cats. It's so important to give the new cat time to become comfortable in their new environment! Ideally the new cat should be placed in a room in which the resident cat spends little time – often a second bathroom is appropriate because it is small and contained. Make sure that you don't rush this step – the new cat should be exploring the room and exhibiting confidence, including showing social behavior with you and your family.
2. Create positive, rewarding associations. Each cat may still be stressed or fearful about being in the presence of the other. It is important for them to develop positive associations. This is a fairly simple step. The cats should not be directly interacting at this point but should be able to see each other but separated by something like a baby gate. Find a new treat that each cat loves, but only give them this treat when in the presence of the other cat – this creates the positive association.
3. Limit the amount of time the cats spend in the presence of each other at the beginning. The trick is to stop the interaction before it becomes stressful. When you see positive indications that the cats are starting to become comfortable with each other (signs such as eating treats in the presence of the other cat, playing with a toy, or touching noses/toes/rubbing against the gate) you can increase the amount of time the cats see each other. If you see signs that either cat is stressed, dial it back and limit the time they spend, even separating them again.
4. Supervise time together without the baby gate. Reward them with their treats. Redirect with a toy if there is a negative interaction such as chasing or stalking. Once you observe that there are minimal stressful interactions they are ready for unsupervised time together!

HOW TO WALK A HUMAN A DOGS GUIDE

Humans need exercise. If they don't get it they become "chubby". It's up to you to save them.

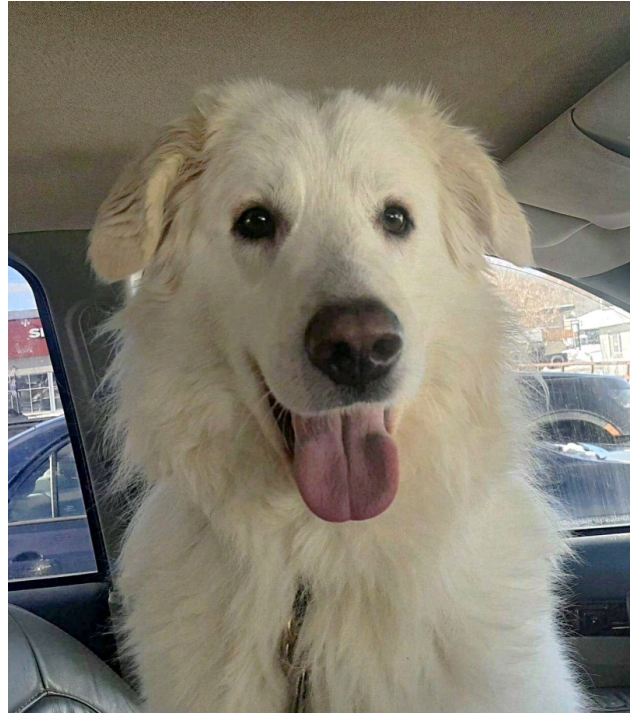
1. Allow your human to tether themselves to you. This keeps them from wondering off or running away.
2. Your human will probably need breaks. Be considerate and stop and sniff often.
3. Bark frequently. Humans have short attention spans.
4. When you go to the bathroom, walk away. If you have trained your human correctly, they will pick it up.
5. Periodically drag your human as fast as you can. This is called interval training.
6. Do not allow your human to shorten the walk. They are being lazy. Sit in protest if you must.
7. Once back home, allow your human to remove their tether, then lick their face many times. This is positive reinforcement for a job well done.



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Are you looking for a new friend to add to your family? These cats and kittens, dogs and puppies are available!! See the website at www.homeagainbancroft.ca for more information on any of these beasts!!









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