



# happy tails dog training

*Happy dogs, Happy homes!*

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## Multi-Dog Households

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Having multiple dogs can be fun, exciting, and rewarding. However, a multi-dog household also presents a different set of challenges. Here are some tips to create a stable, stress free household using training and consistent rules.

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### Teach a group “Wait” command

- Start training the wait command with each dog individually
- Gradually add in dogs to the group, one at a time
- Use body blocks to direct the dogs, block doorways and control the space

### Handling meal time

- Avoid free feeding from a single bowl; otherwise it is impossible to tell who is eating, who is not, and how much each dog is eating per day
- Prevent conflict by: staggering meal times, feeding in separate rooms or crates, or teaching each dog to go to an assigned spot
- Allow each dog a quiet, personal spot to rest after meals to prevent digestive upset

### Schedule “One on One” time with each dog

- Train each dog in the household individually on all commands and rules before doing group training
- Spend at least 5 to 10 minutes per day alone with each dog to maintain your relationship with the individual dogs
- Teach each dog name recognition

### Play time

- Establish an “off switch” to end play/interaction between the dogs
- Watch for an increase or change in emotional state during play
- Learn more about dog play from a reliable positive reinforcement trainer or animal behavior consultant

### Rules are required

- Group greetings: teach a sit stay away from entry ways for greeting guests
- Use a group name that all the dogs respond to such as: *Doggies* or *Kiddos*
- Teach the “Leave it” command to all dogs in the household