

More information about littermates:

From The Whole Dog Journal:

[https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/puppies/pre\\_puppy\\_prep/problems-associated-with-adopting-two-puppies-at-the-same-time/](https://www.whole-dog-journal.com/puppies/pre_puppy_prep/problems-associated-with-adopting-two-puppies-at-the-same-time/)

From the American Kennel Club:

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/puppy-information/littermate-syndrome/>

From Rover.com:

<https://www.rover.com/blog/littermate-syndrome/>

From Pupford:

<https://pupford.com/littermate-syndrome-dogs/>



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# DOUBBLE TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS IN ADOPTING LITTERMATES



Adopting a puppy is one of the most exciting decisions you can make. But when those adorable puppy eyes come in pairs, it's tempting to take home two littermates. While this might seem like a great idea, experts advise against it. Here's why:

### **WHAT IS LITTERMATE SYNDROME?**

Littermate Syndrome is a phenomenon where sibling puppies (or similar-aged non-littermate puppies) are adopted together, develop behavioral issues that can make life difficult for both them and their owners. While it sounds like they would keep each other company, the reality is often quite different.

### **TOP 5 REASONS TO AVOID ADOPTING LITTERMATES**

#### **1. Over-Reliance on Each Other**

Littermates often become overly dependent on each other, which can hinder their ability to bond with humans. They might become anxious or distressed when separated, making solo training and socialization very challenging.

#### **2. Increased Aggression and Fear**

Without proper individual attention, littermates can develop aggression towards each other and other dogs. They might also become more fearful of new situations, people, and environments. This happens because they are more focused on each other than on exploring the world around them.

#### **3. Training Difficulties**

Training two puppies at once is much harder than training one. They distract each other constantly, making it difficult for them to learn basic commands, house training, and proper manners. Each puppy needs dedicated one-on-one time with you to learn effectively.

#### **4. Socialization Challenges**

Socializing puppies is crucial for their development, but littermates might stick together and not interact properly with other dogs or people. This can lead to poor social skills, making walks and outings stressful rather than enjoyable.

### **5. Behavioral Problems**

When puppies grow up too closely bonded to each other, they might exhibit a range of behavioral problems, such as separation anxiety, destructive behavior when alone, and even biting or snapping at each other. These issues can be very difficult to correct.

### **LATEST INSIGHTS FROM APPLIED BEHAVIOR**

Recent studies in animal behavior suggest that puppies raised with proper individual attention are generally happier and better adjusted. They form stronger bonds with their human families and are more adaptable to different situations. Experts recommend adopting one puppy at a time and focusing on their unique needs and personality.

### **What Should You Do Instead?**

- **Adopt One Puppy:** Focus on raising, training, and socializing one puppy before considering adding another to your family.
- **Seek Professional Advice:** If you already have littermates, consult with a professional dog trainer or behaviorist to help manage and mitigate potential issues.
- **Ensure Individual Time:** If you have two puppies, spend quality one-on-one time with each to foster independence and proper training.

### **Conclusion**

While adopting littermates might seem like double the fun, it often leads to double the trouble. By understanding and avoiding Littermate Syndrome, you can ensure a healthier, happier, and more harmonious life for you and your canine companion. Remember, it's better to take the time to raise one well-adjusted puppy than to struggle with the challenges of two.

For more information on puppy training and behavior, speak with your local animal behaviorist or vet. Happy pet parenting!