

WHAT IS LITTERMATE SYNDROME?



Littermate syndrome is the term used by dog trainers to describe the collection of difficult behaviors which occur when two siblings from the same litter are raised in the same household.



HOW CAN WE PREVENT IT?

Don't get two puppies from the same litter!

WHY IS IT BAD?

Puppies from the same litter can form a hyper-attachment which is an unhealthy bond which prevents them from coping without the presence of the other. Their focus on their siblings will make it difficult for their human family to gain their attention. As littermates mature, they often end up having sibling rivalry which causes resource guarding, frantic, panicked, fearful behavior and even **aggression**.

DID YOU ALREADY TAKE HOME SIBLINGS?

HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD DO

Crate train the puppies - Make sure to separate them into their own crates so they learn how to be alone without their sibling

Feed them separately - Littermates often grow to display strong resource guarding behaviors which are quite difficult. Make sure they eat separately and with separate bowls so that they don't feel like they need to compete.

Separate Activities - Littermates should be taken on separate walks, have separate training sessions and separate playtimes so they can bond with their human family individually.

REMEMBER:

Treat each puppy as individuals and give them the opportunity to discover who they are without their sibling.

