

## Two Dogs May Not Be Twice the Fun

**Taking home two puppies at once could make them bond with each other instead of their owner.**

*By Allan Reznik*

Q. We are planning on getting two puppies so that they will both have constant companions. However, we are hoping to select a German Shepherd Dog and a Boxer. Are these two breeds compatible if raised and acquired together? Both dogs will have a lot of space, activity, and attention. We jog with our pets and have two active kids.

A. The two breeds are strong and intelligent and should be compatible. However, I don't recommend bringing home two puppies at once. Puppies are needy and demanding, and it's difficult to do justice to them both. I would choose one puppy to integrate into your family, train and raise, and then wait until that puppy was a young adult before bringing another one home.

Two puppies will often tune out their owner and take cues from one another instead. A younger puppy, on the other hand, will pick up good habits from a well-trained older puppy or dog, simply by mimicking his behavior. By having the entire family focus on one dog at a time, you'll get the most out of each dog, with maximum bonding.