

Congratulations on your new dog!



Bringing home a new pet can be challenging and stressful not only for you but for the dog as well. The dog is in an unfamiliar environment with new people and this can be scary. Here are some tips to help the transition into your home go as smooth as possible.

#1 BEFORE you bring your dog inside, walk him/her around outside and make sure he/she goes potty. This will prevent accidents from happening indoors. Even if dogs are “Potty Trained” they are still likely to have an accident in an unfamiliar environment. So be safe not sorry. Prevention and management is key in potty training.

#2 Keep your dog on leash inside the house at all times! Not only will this prevent accidents, it will also help teach the dog boundaries. Let the dog explore the house letting him/her get used to the environment. Keep a close eye on the dog at all times to be sure he/she does not have an accident. For shy or nervous dogs try using tasty treats spreading them around on the floor to encourage them to explore.

#3 From the very beginning set your rules for the dog. Is the dog allowed on the furniture? Is the dog allowed in the kitchen, bedrooms, or other areas in the house? Be very clear and consistent with these rules, your dog will catch on quickly if you are.

#4 NEVER Take your dog off leash in an unfenced area. Even though you have grown very attached to your new dog the likelihood of the dog coming back if it runs off are slim to none. If you would like to have your dog off leash somewhere seek a professional trainer to ensure proper training has taken place before you decide to take your dog off the leash.

#5 Make a Schedule. This will make the transition much smoother. If your dog knows that it will be let out to relieve itself it will be less likely to have an accident. You can also keep track of when your dog eats, sleeps, and exercises, all common times dogs will need to relieve themselves.

#6 Proper Diet and Exercise. Another very important key to preventing health and behavior problems is a high quality diet and efficient exercise. Yes dog food is expensive but by feeding a higher quality food your dog will potty less, have fewer health issues, and fewer behavioral problems. It has been proven that dogs that eat poor quality food tend to develop health and behavioral problems because they do not receive proper nutrients. Feeding low quality or “cheap” dog food would be like you eating fast food every day. You probably would not feel very good right? We also cannot stress enough the importance of physical and mental exercise for your dog. This will ensure your dog is not bored and destructive. So if you notice your dog is chewing up the furniture or spreading trash through the house it’s probably time for a walk! But physical exercise is not enough! Dogs are intelligent creatures and need mental stimulation. So practice obedience daily, teach your dog fun games and tricks, and get in touch with a professional trainer to properly socialize your dog. It is easier to take care of a problem that has been going on for a few days rather than a few months.

All of this can be overwhelming but remember to enjoy your dog! If you follow these suggestions and are consistent you will have a well-mannered, happy dog. If you get stuck or are unsure of what to do in any situation don’t be afraid to ask for help!