

# Welcoming Your New Dog Home



When you schedule to pick up your new dog, make sure you have enough time to focus on the introduction for the first few days. There is also some equipment you should have: a leash, a soft nylon collar with an ID tag. When you are walking and training your new dog, you should also have a metal slip collar or a halti collar. These should be removed when not walking or training. Crate training is also highly recommended. Dogs are animals who find comfort and safety in a cozy place. It should not be much bigger than room for the dog to stand up and turn around. Think cozy! Check or purchase your food supply as well. You can get guidance about the quantity of food from a volunteer at the shelter or your vet.

Find a special place for the crate. You want your new dog to know that he/she is always safe, comfortable and quiet. If you don't have a crate, you can do this in a small room such as a bathroom. Place an old blanket, towel or mat in the room. Chew toys are always good as a dog will have an urge to chew. Make sure the space is safe and the dog can't hurt himself or eat something harmful. It is not a good idea to leave the dog outside by himself to panic, bark, chew or cry.

While home, it is important to keep him/her on a leash for the first few days. He/she will get used to it and you will be able to easily correct him/her if you need to. If he/she is not house broken, you will be able to easily take him/her outside often. In the beginning, it is good to take him/her out every hour. Choose an area of the yard and bring him/her there and encourage him/her to relieve himself in that spot. When he/she does, praise him/her. Do this a few times in the beginning and he will get the idea.

# Introducing Your New Dog to the Pack

If you have other animals in your home, there are some tips to a smooth transition. It is not a good idea just to bring your new dog home and let them all work it out. This can lead to fighting, anxiety for you and your dogs, and overall trouble. Remember, dogs are more territorial if there are more than two animals in the house. They will develop a ranking which includes a pack leader – This should be you!!! You will provide the calming influence they need.

Your dogs should meet for the first time in a neutral place. Not the house or yard. Have a friend who knows your existing dogs help you. Begin with a walk. You take your existing dogs and have your friend take your new one. You walk in front. After a good amount of time allow your existing dog to sniff the rear end of the new one. Do not let them get nose to nose quite yet. Finish the walk with your existing dogs in front. Make sure they have been given enough exercise.

Now it is time to enter the house. You and the existing dogs enter first, and then come your friend with your new dog. It is a good idea to then put your new dog in a crate until they know each other better.

Crates are a good idea. Keep your new dog in a crate. It provides safety for him/her and allows your existing dogs to approach your new one Introducing Your New Dog to the Pack and get a good sniff. If there is growling, put a stop to it immediately.

When you think everyone is acclimated, let your new dog out of the crate; keep leashes on everyone in case you need to correct someone. Do not allow growling or aggressive behavior. It is better to walk everyone first. Remember, exercise, leadership then affection.

It is a good idea to feed them all separately and feed the existing dogs first.

The pack will establish their hierarchy; you cannot control this, except to take the leadership role, which is critical.

If you take these steps, you should have a calm, harmonious pack.



# Introducing Your New Dog to Your Children

Children and dogs can have amazing relationships, but they can also lead to real problems if they are not introduced correctly. The best way to avoid potentially dangerous situations is to supervise all interactions between your new dog and your children. This way you can step in if any danger occurs

## Introducing Your New Dog to Your Cat



When selecting your shelter dog, look for signs that the dog is interested in the child. Children should be standing still or sitting when they are first introduced. Let the dog approach the child. They can encourage this by offering a treat. Have the child throw the treat on the ground in front of them at first. Ask the child not to stare at the dog as that is threatening to the dog. The child should not hug the dog right away as that is not always welcomed by the dog. When the dog looks comfortable picking up the treats from the child's feet, have the child put the treat in his/her hand with a fist (knuckles up). When the dog sniffs her hand, she can slowly open her hand and allow the dog to take the treat from her open palm. You can repeat this over and over. As always, keep a leash on the dog. If the dog is excited, be the leader and have the child walk away and calmly correct the dog's behavior. Take your time with the process and you will have harmony.

Look for signs of trouble such as your dog freezing, a momentary pause in what he is doing. This is sometimes accompanied by a hard stare. If he is doing this, you can often see the whites of his eyes. These are all warnings that the dog is uncomfortable and moving toward aggression. If you or your child ignore this, the dog will often begin growling and showing teeth. The last warning you will get is a snap.

Teach your children that not all dogs love them right away. They need to get used to the child.

Introducing your new dog to your existing cat(s) is a little different. It is best to keep them separated at first. Pick a time when you can take the dog out for a walk and the cat can begin to explore the dog's space. Once the cat is comfortable with the new smells and items, you can begin introducing the dog and the cat. Keep the dog on a leash. Take your dog for a walk, when the dog is still; allow the cat in the room. Let the cat come and investigate. You want to look for signs that the dog becoming aggressive. If so, stop the behavior immediately. If you know your cat, you should be able to determine if it is going to claw the dog. If so, separate the two. Some dogs are great with cats and some are not. Monitor them closely and don't leave them alone until you know for sure they will get along. Make sure the cat has a safe retreat. The crate can do the same for the dog. Look for signs of trouble such as a hard stare from the dog. If you see this behavior, separate the two immediately.

