

Forever Families



Canine Services

Bringing your dog out of the doghouse!

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HOW TO INTRODUCE YOUR NEW DOG TO ITS NEW HOME AND FAMILY!

1. Sit down and decide what rules you will have for the new puppy/dog. (i.e. allowed on the bed, on furniture, a designated “bathroom” area and bathroom word etc...) These rules must be consistently enforced by EVERYONE in the family so EVERYONE must agree to them.
2. Start your dog off on a nothing in life is free program. i.e. the dog does not get anything: food, affection, treats, etc... without earning them. This helps establish you as the pack leader by controlling the things your dog needs and wants.
3. Introduce your new dog to the house and family in a calm manner. Send one person to pick up the puppy – preferably the individual who will be mostly responsible for training the dog. If you will be using a travel style crate during housetraining, use this to transport the dog. If not, take two people, **but not the whole family and wherever possible NOT a child.** Take a ratty towel to place under the dog in case it urinates, drools or vomits in the car.
4. Take a few yummy treats with you to help lure the dog into the car and crate and also to help reinforce car rides as an enjoyable experience.
5. It is highly advisable that once you arrive back at the house, you take the dog for a 30 min walk (or as long as the dog can handle depending on his or her age) BEFORE entering. This will help your dog to be calmer when meeting the family. It will also allow the dog to work off any stress the car ride may have built up in him or her.
6. When the dog enters the house for the first time it should be on lead and the family should IGNORE the dog. As impossible as this will be, it will again

help reinforce to the dog that this is your house and your pack and he is being invited to join them. (If you have kids, I suggest having them otherwise occupied initially -such as watching a movie or finishing homework) Bring the dog in and allow it to explore the room for 10 mins or so without anyone acknowledging the dog in anyway.(Except in matters of safety or extreme behaviour.) Allow the dog to approach and sniff you or other family members while everyone continues to ignore the dog. Allow the dog to move about at his or her own pace, do not allow any behaviour you will not allow in the future... i.e. jumping up, growling etc...

After the dog has had time to “adjust” to the environment, allow family members to greet the dog in a calm manner. Interrupt these greetings after 10 mins or so and take the dog to your designated bathroom area. Tell your dog to go “pee” or whatever your bathroom word is. A puppy can only “hold it” for as many hours as it is old. 1 month old = 1 hour bladder control etc.... yet never longer than 8 hrs. Also as a general rule, a new puppy will need to go to the bathroom after any nap longer than 2 hours, any play time longer than 20 minutes, within 30 mins of eating or drinking and after any excitable event such as meeting his or her new home and family! (This is only a guideline though so watch for bathroom signals!)

7. Limit your dog’s exposure to the house to a couple of rooms for the first couple of days. Most people typically pick the kitchen and living room as the two areas they start with. Only allow the dog in any other than their crate or confined space while you are there and watching them. Like a baby you MUST WATCH them constantly for the few months - for their safety and yours.
8. Utilize an activity called tethering – to keep the dog close to you at all times, this will prevent unwanted “accidents” and will further the dogs attachment to you.
9. Begin exercises like crate training, active snuggling and sit on the dog immediately.
10. Begin enjoying your new dog!!!