



WELCOME HOME FURRY BABY

For the First-time Dog Owner

Dogs make wonderful companions, but the first-time dog owner needs to understand that caring for a dog is a commitment for the life of the dog.

Your dog should be considered a member of your family, and given the same care, consideration and respect you would give your own human family members.

The first couple of weeks you and your pet are “getting to know one another”. They don’t know why they have come to your home nor what is expected of them. Please be patient with them and anticipate problems before they occur. Don’t leave tempting shoes, clothing, or children’s toys within reach of your dog. If they are left out in your backyard while you work, please understand the first few days will be rough on them. Try to leave the home with as little fanfare as possible. Tearful goodbyes do nothing but add to your dog’s anxiety.

Within a week or two, your dog will have settled into their new home and their new routine. Some will take a little longer. And well worth it, it will be. In fact, you will probably have trouble remembering when they weren’t one of you.



WHAT'S ALMOST AS MUCH FUN AS WELCOMING A NEW DOG INTO YOUR HOME?

Going on a shopping spree to make that welcome complete! Let's face it. Even though your new dog can thrive on love and attention, even dogs have a materialistic streak, and they won't turn down a plush bed, a fun toy or an entertaining chewy of their own to have.



SHOPPING LIST:

It may be a good idea to wait until you select your new pet before you begin shopping for supplies.

For example, some items such as food and water bowls or collars and harnesses, depend upon the size of the pet you will be adopting.

Also, be sure to find out which food your pet was eating in the shelter or foster home so that you can provide the same in the beginning, again to ease the transition. After the pet has settled in, talk with your veterinarian about switching to the food of your choice.

Once you've selected your pet, here's a checklist of supplies you may need:

- Food and water bowls
- Food (canned and/or dry)
- Collar
- Four to six-foot leash
- ID tag with your phone number
- Hard plastic carrier or foldable metal crate
- Dog bed
- Doggy shampoo and conditioner
- Nail clippers
- Canine toothbrush and toothpaste
- Brush or comb (depends on your pet's coat length and type)
- Super-absorbent paper towels
- Sponge and scrub brush
- Non-toxic cleanser
- Enzymatic odor neutralizer
- Plastic baggies (biodegradable ones are best) or scooper
- Absorbent house-training pads
- Variety of toys (a ball, rope, chew toy, puzzle toy, etc.)
- Variety of treats (small cookies, larger rawhides, etc.)
- First-aid supplies
- Baby gate(s)



WHAT TO POTENTIALLY EXPECT:

Adjustment Period — When you first get your dog, they will spend the first few days just trying to get adjusted. This is the “honeymoon phase.” If your dog has any bad habits from her previous home, these may not appear in the first few weeks.

Potty training — Young puppies are not potty-trained, and an adult dog might not be either. You don’t want them having accidents in the house, so keep an eye on your new dog constantly so they can’t make a mistake.

Chewing — Your dog doesn’t know which things are their chew toys and which aren’t. Limiting house freedom will help you keep an eye on her so you can redirect to something on which she is allowed to chew.

Teenager Phase — This lasts from about 6- 18 months depending on the dog, and you will wonder why your previously wonderfully behaved dog has suddenly started to test her limits. This is normal. Just be consistent!

WHAT CAN YOU DO:

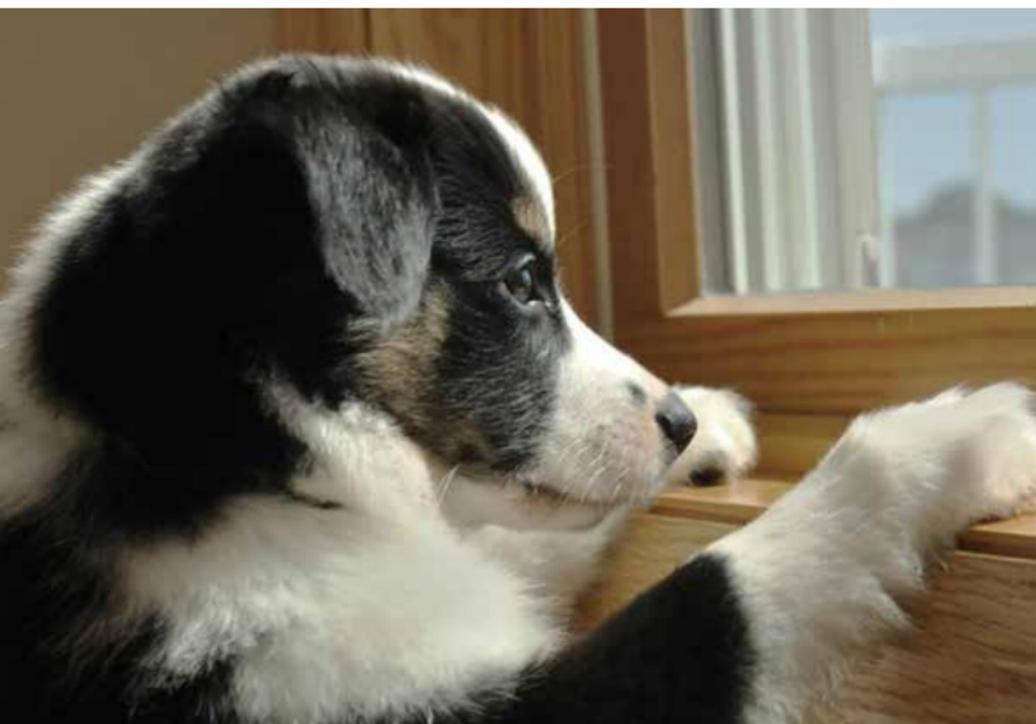
Set consistent rules — Decide as a family what the rules are and enforce them from the beginning. If it's not going to be cute when your dog is ten, don't let him do it when he's ten weeks. Sending a consistent message an important part of training.

Establish a routine — Dogs respond well to routines, so while they are adjusting to their new home, try to keep meal, walk and bed times as consistent as possible.

Be positive — Positive-reinforcement training is a great way to teach your dog the rules while establishing a solid relationship. Be patient, it's hard to adjust.

Socialize — If you have a puppy, make sure to socialize them to other dogs, people, children, skateboards and everything else you don't want them to fear.

Post emergency numbers — Post the numbers for your veterinarian and nearest emergency practice on your refrigerator with directions, if necessary.



HOUSE-TRAINING:

Wouldn't it be nice if dogs were born housetrained? Or if babies were born potty-trained? Until such dreams come true, here are some real-life tips:

Watch for signs of discomfort, restlessness or circling, then whisk them outside to an established, close-by potty place. Realize that when a dog relieves themselves in the wrong place, it's not out of spite. It's because they had to go. A problem with not catching the dog in time to whisk them outdoors: the acting of relieving themselves in that spot is immediately self-reinforcing due to the rush of relief they feels.

Praise when they go potty. Give them a treat or kibble to reinforce the behavior. If 15 or so minutes pass without pottying, it's suggested you pick up a small dog, or bring a larger dog inside for about five minutes and then bring them back out.

Confine when you can't watch... in a crate or a part of the kitchen. Don't leave food out. Do leave water, unless they'll be confined less than 2 hours. Make this their domain until house-trained.

Realize that puppies and dogs can't "hold it" for long periods. Even adult dogs may need a mid-day dog walker if you work long hours. And puppies need to urinate and defecate frequently, so they'll need to go out at least every 4 hours to get housetrained.





Crate-train. The quickest way to housetrain most dogs, crate training is based on the premise they don't like to mess in their sleeping area. Use a crate large enough for your dog to lie down and turn around. For oversized crates, use a divider to confine the dog to one part of the crate until housebroken.

Feed on a schedule. Feed your dog the same times each day, then take them out a certain amount of time after feeding (this depends on age; often, young puppies must be taken within 15 minutes). Young puppies are usually fed three times a day; older puppies and adult dogs twice a day. Don't switch from food to food; keep the diet consistent.

Keep a potty routine. Take your dog outside first thing in the morning, when you get home from work, within an hour after the dog eats, just before bedtime, and following vigorous play. Young puppies may need to be taken outside every two hours. They will get housebroken much faster and reliably if someone can take them out midday during the workday.

Don't end the walk outside when your dog potties. Or they'll get the idea that



outdoor fun ends when they relieve themselves. This is why some dogs hold it until they are brought back inside. After your dog “goes,” praise, give a treat and keep walking a bit longer.

Eliminate opportunities for accidents. During the first two weeks, keep your dog close to you so that if they starts to potty indoors, you can correct immediately. Otherwise, they may relieve themselves in other rooms - and if you don't catch them in the act, there's no use in scolding because the dog won't remember or make the connection. Close off unused rooms, and use a leash to keep them beside you, either holding the leash or attaching it to a furniture leg (for safety's sake, remove the leash when you can't watch them). Until housebroken, crate them when you're not home to watch.

Interrupt vs. scold. And use your voice, not physical force. Typically, a dog goes because they just have to. If you catch them in the act, try to interrupt the action with a loud, startling AH-AH-AH!! or NO! and an immediate trip to the potty spot. Use a loud, deep, firm vowel sound; muttering or repeating commands won't convey the

message. You want to alert, not punish, your dog. When they resume relieving themselves outside, praise lavishly.

Punishment teaches only fear. Never shove a dog's nose in their mess or smack a dog, which teaches them only to fear hands. Remember: dogs forget what they do after they do it. A dog is unable to associate past behavior with a punishment they are now receiving. They can associate the pain and anger with the person administering the punishment.

Clean up. Try not to let them see you clean up a mess, or they may think it's an interactive game. Use an enzyme-based pet odor neutralizer like Nature's Miracle or Simple Solution to kill the urine scent. Using ammonia is counter-productive, since urine contains ammonia. Cleaning up extends to the outside, too. Many dogs dislike going in a poop-riddled yard. Note: paper training postpones learning the desired behavior.

Neuter and spay. Intact dogs have a much greater tendency to mark. Alter by age 6 months.



**LET US KNOW HOW
IT'S GOING WITH
YOU AND YOUR NEW
FAMILY MEMBER!**

