



Bringing Home the New Dog

First impressions are as important to dogs as they are to people (maybe more so). There are some things you should consider when introducing your new dog into his new home to make sure good behaviors are encouraged and bad behaviors discouraged. Here are some tips for you and your new dog...

Before you bring him home...

- Set up your dog's den area in a quiet room
- Register for an obedience class that starts a few weeks after you bring them home
- Make an appointment with your vet for an exam
- Check your fence for gaps or possible escape routes
- Secure trash can lids and put away shoes and important belongings your dog could chew on – anything in reach is fair game – don't blame your dog for being a dog
- Purchase plenty of high-quality chew toys like Nylabones and Kongs

When you bring him home...

- Give your new dog a chance to relieve himself before you introduce him into your home
- Keep your new dog on-leash even in the house for the first week so you can monitor their actions and keep their stress level low
- Act calm and casual – don't excite him with play
- Close off areas of the house where he is not allowed and open the house up slowly to the dog over time
- Take your new dog outside often (on-leash) so they learn where they should potty and praise for going outside
- Keep introductions to resident pets brief and supervised – do not expect them to be instant friends

After you bring him home...

- Dogs need daily exercise (just letting your dog out unsupervised in the backyard doesn't count)
- Walking your dog is one of the best ways to bond with (and train) your dog
- If you work long hours consider doggy daycare
- Dogs need to use their bodies and the minds to stay happy – try mind games like hide-n-seek or the shell game
- Set scheduled feeding times with pre-determined serving size (do not free-feed)

Young dogs normally require 3 meals a day

Adult dogs normally require 1 or 2 meals a day

Consult your vet for exact feeding requirements for your dog's specific needs

