

# Congratulations on your new family member!

## Ten Quick Tips to Ensure your New Pet Settles in Successfully

### Consider a Crate

Many dogs will choose to hide in a closet or under a bed or table - a crate provides a similar experience. These den-ish enclosures provide security and comfort and ensure everyone approaches from one direction. They also give dogs their own space – an important thing for our canine kiddos.

To make the crate less intimidating, feed your pup in it, while inside toss treats inside or give them a slow-feeder toy or kong.

Once the dog starts hanging in the crate on their own, try taking the door off

### Already have a pet?

Be sure to:

- 🐾 Feed separate!
- 🐾 Give current pets lots of attention and TLC (they may not have asked for a brother or sister)
- 🐾 Keep separate when you're not around
- 🐾 Give cats lots of elevated spaces
- 🐾 Don't want litter box issues? 1 cat per box

### Anxious Cat?

Give them some space....and a place to hide – they'll explore on their own, typically when it's dark & quiet

Cats need height; give them areas up high to perch and watch from

Cats need to scratch something that doesn't move when they dig in....like a couch, or a tall, solid scratching post

Cats need attention every day....even a few minutes of play and interaction can change their temperament quickly

### Puppy Proofing

Whether you adopted a puppy or adult dog, sometimes the temptations in a house can be overwhelming. Set your new dog up for success by puppy-proofing your home.

For the first few months, ensure all personal items like shoes, socks, undergarments, bathroom trash, etc are out of reach

Dogs chew as a coping mechanism (think of people who chew gum) so they go after stuff that smells like us, watch your glasses, remotes, phones, etc

Also, watch the corners of wooden stairs and furniture, esp coffee tables – use bitter sprays as a deterrent

Virtually anything can be chewed on, so be sure your pup has access to acceptable chew toys at all times – and .be sure to try different textures: antlers, stuffed animals, kongs, etc

### Downtime is not a bad thing

The experience of coming to a new home and meeting new people and animals can be overwhelming. Let your new pet relax by putting them in a crate or small area to decompress and digest the household routine

## Uh-oh Someone had an Accident

Your new pet has just spent time in a building where they were left inside for more than 10 hours at a time, they had to go to the bathroom inside. But most dogs would rather go out, so give your dog a day or two to understand your routine and signals:

For adult dogs who previously lived in a home:

- Be diligent about getting them out every couple of hours while they settle into your routine
- Close off any rooms that aren't used often
- Want it on command? Repeat a word every time they go out (potty, business) or ring bells

For puppies who are learning, a puppy:

- has to be with you, crated or in an area they can go potty in – 24/7!
  - has to go to the bathroom every couple of hours, after they play or any naps
- If caught in the act, interrupt with a loud voice or stomp your feet and get the dog out immediately  
If you don't catch them, let it go and manage better then next time

## Nervous Dog?

- Take it slow •

Remember your new pup just came from a very small living environment, an entire house can be big and overwhelming – let them get used to it slowly, one area at a time.

Predictability is one of the best things we can provide a dog

A crate can provide a dog a secure and safe area where they can get used to their new surroundings

If your new pup is scared of one person in the family, have that person hand-feed the dog – and spend a lot of time on the floor with them

## Training 101

Training isn't as much about teaching as it is about figuring out a mutual language between you and your dog. Once you know how to communicate and have a level of trust and respect, getting behaviors on-demand is easy.

## Taking one for the team

Unfortunately, we're seeing more and more dogs with behavior issues, perhaps they were denied socialization when they were puppies or experienced a trauma they're struggling to adapt to. In any case, these dogs need more time to adjust to your house and routine.

Go slow, don't corner them and be sure to laugh – having fun and enjoying time with our pups is often all they want!

## Separation Anxiety

Many dogs experience different levels of what is often called Separation Anxiety. This fear of being alone or in a strange place can be seen in their actions or their reactions to the environment. A dog with separation anxiety won't eat a treat or bone if you're not there. They will often drool excessively whine, pace, etc

If your new pup is nervous, try

- ✂ White noise (fan, radio), etc
- ✂ Slow-feeding treats/food dispensers (to keep busy)
- ✂ Leave something that smells like you (pj's or socks work great!) in the crate with them

If using a wire crate, be sure it's 3/4 covered with something light, like a sheet, to provide the den-like, secure feeling your pup is looking for

## What Type of Player do you Have?

All dogs are different but we can group play styles into a couple of common types:

**Rough and Rowdies** – These dogs love to slam into each other and play hard! They are also often very vocal

**Wallflowers** – These softies are often the people-focused-dogs, not wanting to play much, if at all

**Chasers** – “We love to chase! Or be chased!! Start moving and we're on your heels. Hurry, or we may bark to get you moving”

**Referees** – The regulators! These dogs love to correct others or interrupt play sessions just because

