



803-814-5323(LEAD)

BRINGING YOUR NEW DOG HOME

Three days, three weeks...

1. **PREPARE.** (Some of these may need to be sized to your new dog before you purchase them)
 - ⇒ **Find a good Vet and a good dog trainer and enlist their help in evaluating potential dogs to adopt. Let them help ensure your next dog is healthy and temperamentally suited for your family situation.**
 - ⇒ **Read the “Before you adopt” handout.**
 - ⇒ **Read a good book or hire a trainer to coach you about dog psychology and how to successfully live with a dog.**
 - ⇒ **Get Supplies/items you'll need *before* bringing a dog home:**
 - ⇒ Microchip and I.D. tag with your address and phone number. A dog should wear this at all times.
 - ⇒ Fitted collar (buckle is better than adjustable). Its key function is to hold the all-important I.D. tag.
 - ⇒ Standard Leash. Choose one that's comfortable on your hands. Choose a 6-foot.
 - ⇒ Training leash/tool. I usually recommend a slip leash for most dogs but the right tool depends on the dog, you and your objectives. Other training options include a properly fit head harness, martingale style collar or other tool can also help you properly walk your dog IF YOU LEARN HOW TO USE IT PROPERLY.
 - ⇒ Crate (we recommend the folding wire type or plastic **properly sized**), or closing off a dog-proofed room with baby gates. Choose a safe, secure place to confine the dog when you cannot watch him for at least the first 3-4 weeks. Confine the dog in a bedroom or family area, such as a family room or kitchen.
 - ⇒ Bowls for water and food.
 - ⇒ Combs and brushes appropriate for dog's coat maintenance..
 - ⇒ Dog Shampoo (their skin PH is different than humans)
 - ⇒ Ear cleaning and teeth cleaning items
 - ⇒ Dog specific clean up supplies (enzymatic cleaners without ammonia)
 - ⇒ Dog bed or cot.
 - ⇒ 1 or 2 quality interactive and chew toys
 - ⇒ 4 or 5 star (dogfoodadvisor.com) brand of food (the better the food, the healthier the dog).

1. FIRST THREE DAYS (Go slow, Be aloof, let dog decompress)

Introduction. For three days your dog will be overwhelmed just getting familiar with the new environment. Understand that the dog does not yet know you, your family, the car, the house, the neighborhood, the smells, the sounds, the routine or where the bathroom is. His whole world has just changed dramatically. While it may seem intellectually better than kennel life, to your dog, it is just ***different and unfamiliar*** and so for three days, expect that he will be IN SHOCK and potentially stressed. Don't add to your dog's stress during the first three days in your home by introducing dog to the neighbors, taking dog to a dog park or around unfamiliar dogs, or trying to do too much, too soon.

Car sickness, potty accidents, stiffening, growling, barking, suppressed (sad dog) behaviors, whining etc are all possible and will only be worse if you coddle, pet, over stimulate, crowd around, talk to, stare at and otherwise act like a typical human with a 6 month old baby----PLEASE FOR THE FIRST THREE DAYS JUST LEAVE THE DOG BE-- TO BE WITH YOU QUIETLY AND CALMLY. Less is more during this transition period.

If you already have a dog in the house READ "How to introduce a new dog")

DO Allow the dog to decompress, get comfortable at HIS PACE, learn about things SLOWLY and calmly, meet family members when he decides and then interact calmly petting under chin or on chest NOT on top of head or on haunches..

DO control/limit dog's access to your house. DO crate train your dog or create a small, safe space for him to spend quiet time throughout the day. Give dog lots of quiet time in his crate or a baby-proofed room (bathroom or uncarpeted laundry room with baby gate). When he is not crated or in his safe room, **DO** have him on leash inside and out and have the leash in hand or tied to an adult's belt. Let him just be around you WITHOUT you trying to chat, stare, pet etc.

DO Ask for respectful behavior by using the leash to calmly disagree with jumping, inappropriate chewing, marking or pooping indoors. Stop the unwanted behavior and show the dog a better option. (Don't chew my shoe, chew this chew toy)

DO encourage the dog to RESPECT your intimate space. "Ask" him to not invade your personal "bubble"- stay at 6-12 inches from you unless you invite him in. Do play hard to get with your attention and affection. Calmly pet **only** when he is calm and he has approached you and lingered for more than 5 seconds. STOP petting after a few seconds and wait to see how the dog responds. If the dog looks away or moves away, respect that he has had enough.

DO control dog's access to human resting spaces/ furniture. DO keep dog OFF furniture, off from on top of humans and not free to roam of the house.

DO Control your excitement and affection. DO minimize human excitement (Avoid making everything about hyping up the dog e.g. "heey READY for a WALK!!, or TIME TO EAT!! Etc),

DO minimize love and affection in the first three days. Human affection (soft cooing baby talk, excessive petting, touching, hugging) is NOT helpful to a stressed out dog and may create problems in how your dog understands your relationship. **DO PLAY HARD TO GET** and **DO** be kind but ALOOF. Don't be mean, just give the dog time and space to decompress.

Potty Training. **DO** assume dog is NOT house trained in YOUR house. Take him outside **on leash** at 2-4 hour intervals to same location where you want him to pee and poop. Wait 15 minutes, praise him for peeing/pooping if he does. After 15 minutes return inside. Because he is tied to you, you should catch signs if he looks like he is going to pee/poop inside so you can calmly but clearly interrupt and lead him outside to your spot. Being crated will normally inhibit pee/poop so schedule his time in and out of crate to set him up for house training success!

DO Get the dog on your typical daily schedule. Even if you are taking time off work or it is a weekend, get the dog used to the typical daily rhythms of his new life. It is good to practice crate training for different lengths of time even while you are at home. Make the crate a great CALM place (food, treats, Kong toy) BUT always put him into crate calmly (NO TALKING, goodbyes etc) and DON'T let him out unless he is calm. If he cries, barks, paws the crate, IGNORE him. If you give him ANY attention you may be rewarding that behavior and so you get more and more of it. (see crate training handout)

If you have a backyard, do not leave the dog unattended. Keep on leash or allow dog to drag a leash so you can regain control without grabbing the dog or collar. If you leave a dog unattended, and there is a way out he will find it. He may not think of your house/yard as home for at least three weeks.

2. **First Three WEEKS.** Your dog will be trying to determine who the other members of the new pack are, where he fits in the social order and what the rules, boundaries and limits are in this new situation. How does he earn the things he wants like food, water, time outside, social interaction, play/work, walks, places to rest). The house is not your dog's home for three weeks and this is the easy time to teach your dog that the HUMANS own EVERYTHING and that the dog can EARN the things it wants by behaving in ways appropriate to your family. Continue to provide structure, rules, boundaries and limits as you teach your dog what you do and don't want him to do. Depending on the dog, I would continue to provide a predictable schedule- Wake, potty break, work (training, walk etc), feed, rest (crate time) repeated 3 times a day (only feed twice).

Expect to see new behaviors as your dog gets comfortable. Some may be good some may be unwanted. Your job is to calmly reward the behaviors you like and to calmly disagree with those you want less of. Always best to disagree and then ask for the behavior you do want. For example, dog climbs on couch. You would calmly say "Off" and use the leash to guide him off the couch. Use your body to calmly block him from the couch until he sits, lays down or moves away.

DO BE VERY AWARE of what you are rewarding. If you talk to and pet an excited dog or a dog jumping up (even “no, get off”, push with arms) and the dog finds your attention rewarding you are “asking” for more of that behavior. Wait for the dog to be sitting/ laying calmly and then calmly reward with a treat or quiet affection.

3. Good (not perfect) Resources

Books

Let Dogs be Dogs! by Marc Goldberg and Monks of New Skete

A short guide to a happy dog- by Cesar Milan

Good Owners, Great Dogs - by Brian Kilcommons

Useful Adoption Links:

<https://www.localbark.com/bark-all-about-it/2015/01/5-common-mistakes-adopters-make-when-bringing-home-new-dog/>

<http://www.arlboston.org/welcoming-your-adopted-dog-into-your-home/>

<http://www.adoptapet.com/blog/top-tips-for-safely-bringing-home-a-rescue-or-shelter-dog/#.WF093HeZOgR>

Dog Resources and Info:

Crate Training: [http://healthypets.mercola.com/Crate Training](http://healthypets.mercola.com/Crate%20Training)

General: <https://www.cesarsway.com/dog-care/puppies/Ultimate-guide-to-raising-a-puppy>

Puppy socialization: <https://www.facebook.com/ColonelCanine/posts/165446788821040>

On puppy exercise: <https://www.facebook.com/ColonelCanine/posts/>

House Training

<http://m.wikihow.com/House-Train-Your-Dog-Quickly>

<http://www.dogster.com/dog-training/housebreaking-your-puppy-in-six-easy-steps>