



New Dog-New Home

How to Make a Smooth Transition

Congratulations on your recent addition to your family! Your dog will be excited and most likely a little anxious about his/her new home. It's all very confusing! He was in one home, then our shelter, now he's somewhere else; it will take him a while to adjust to a new owner and routine. In the meantime, the stress can take place in form of:

- Panting, pacing, and hiding
- Housebreaking accidents
- Excessive chewing
- Gastric upset (vomiting, diarrhea, and loose stools)

As soon as you get home...

- Walk him on a leash (even in your yard), for at least 10-15 min, or until he relieves himself.
- Let him get the lay of the land, by sniffing and becoming acquainted with his normal walking beat, your yard, and the area immediately surrounding your house.
- Give him plenty of opportunities to relieve himself until he gets settled.
- If you want him to relieve himself in a specific area, encourage him to go in that area, and praise him when he does.

Remember: he's nervous and unfamiliar with his surroundings. He doesn't know when or where it's okay to go. Setting him up for success, then praising him will help your dog fall into a routine faster.

The first few days...

- Keep him on a leash when you first bring him into your home, or make sure you can keep an eye on him at all times for the first few days. This allows you to correct any undesirable behavior before it becomes a problem, and allows you to take note and reward all the good things your new family member is doing!
- Watch his body language and take note of how he is feeling. Lots of praise and rewards in the first few days will go a long way in the course of your relationship.

Set him up for success! Kennel train early and set up house rules from the very beginning. Make sure to communicate what you want him to do more than correcting him for what he is doing wrong.