

What To Expect

Your new dog's transition into your home



Congratulations on your new dog. The next few days will probably be a bit confusing for your new Fido friend, but rest assured within a matter of days to weeks most dogs settle into the new household groove without much fuss.

Nonetheless, here's "the big stuff" on what you can expect and some suggestions to ease the transition for your new friend (and you!), while he adjusts to new routines and new family members.

It's always a good idea to have a few days at home for time to spend with your new friend. When you do...

1 - Keep your dog on leash *in the house* the first couple days. It's a good way to establish your new connection together, and if accidents happen you can quickly redirect your new friend outdoors. ("Marking" new territory is not uncommon in a new home during the first 1-2 days. Just be prepared to redirect.)

2 - Hunker down at home for a few days. Spend some one-on-one time with your friend just taking it easy. Let the dog park or doggy play-groups wait a week or two. This is get acquainted time so that you can learn more about each other and begin to build a connection.

3 - Transition your dog over to new food over the course of 2 to 3 days. Hopefully the rehoming family has provided some of Fido's current food to do this. If not though you might start with a quality dog food that's easier on the digestion system, like lamb + rice kibble.

Big Important Stuff

Keep your **new dog on leash** with you everywhere you go outdoors for the first week. Your dog hasn't bonded with you yet and doesn't understand the new game plan.

Purchase temporary **dog ID tags** at the local pet store – just in case you do get separated in the early days.

Don't Forget the Treats!

Yep, you can make friends fast with your new dog with yummy treats. Small little bitefuls go a long way.

Good Reads

HOUSE TRAINING DOGS to Behave Well in a High Value Home

DOG SENSE How New Science of Dog Behavior Can Make You A Better Friend to Your Pet

HOW TO SPEAK DOG Mastering the Art of Dog-Human Communication



Build The Connection - Do Stuff Together!

- Play time together or go for long walks on leash
- Practice "Come". Good recall is an important skill for your dog. Practice this, over and over again with the reward of a tasty treat (little nibbles goes a long way).
- See what tricks your friend might already know: sit, lay down, shake. Teach him new tricks!



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