

Assume the worst!!!

You know all the behaviours that your new dog might do that you won't like so don't let them ever start to do them! Even if you have reports on how your new dog got on in his last home dogs are not good at generalising – this means that your new dog may not be able to apply anything he has learnt in a previous life with this new situation.

- You know that a new dog will have house training accidents and you probably dread it – so don't let them happen!
- You know that a new dog might chew things that you would prefer he didn't – so don't let that happen!
- You know that a new dog will be distressed when left alone (you might be the first person in a long time that has been nice to him and he won't want to let you out of his sights!) – so don't let that happen!
- You know that a new dog will be upset at being confined in a crate and lonely at night – so don't let them learn that this is worth being upset over!
- You know that your new dog will probably try to pull on leash with all the excitement of being in a new place – so don't let him learn that this gets him to nice places!
- You don't know what your new dog is like with all of the goings on in your life – so don't allow these things to bother him!
- You don't know what your new dog will be like meeting all other dogs and you won't yet be familiar with the things that bother him about other dogs – so prevent him from getting worked up over meeting other dogs!
- You don't know how your new dog will react to children up close and in his space – so don't allow children to bother your dog! Child-training is necessary too you know!!
- You don't know what sort of things will cause your new dog to ignore you – so don't allow your new dog to spend any time off leash until you have a 100% rock solid reliable recall in **ALL** situations

You know that having a new dog is a huge responsibility so make sure that you prevent undesired behaviours in your new dog as this is YOUR responsibility – you see, more people training than dog training!!

- ♥ Your new dog will take at least a month to truly settle in and show his true personality. This means that we can use this settling in period to put lots of new good routines in place and prevent any undesirable behaviours from developing.
- ♥ Your new dog should not have the free run of the house or indeed any area – have your dog on a drag line (only when supervised) so that you can take hold to prevent undesired behaviour
- ♥ When you cannot supervise your dog confine him to a puppy-proof area with something to chew – if you don't give him something he might just choose something himself! By doing this you will prevent most of the expected undesirable behaviours on the list above.
- ♥ Introduce your dog to limited areas of the house first and as his housetraining improves you can begin to widen the area.
- ♥ If you have other dogs, limit your dog's access to them for at least the first week – allow him to settle into his new home first (and let your other dog get used to the idea of a new pal too!)
- ♥ Bring your dog for very regular toilet breaks over the first few days until you get to know his toileting habits.
- ♥ Spend as much time as possible with your new dog for the first two weeks and then begin to work on alone training by gradually desensitising your dog to being left on his own. Arrange to have someone with the dog most of the time during this time. If we ascertain that there may be an alone training issue further training may be required.
- ♥ Never never never leave your dog in his crate for a period of length that causes him to get upset. If you do you teach him to associate confinement and alone time with being upset – this makes training *very* difficult. Never leave him just to cry it out.
- ♥ Always always make sure to give your dog something really yummy to chew on while alone or confined – this will teach him that nice things happen when confined/alone and will also keep him busy.
- ♥ Don't even start feeding from a bowl – measure out your new dog's daily ration of kibble and mix with some pieces of yummys such as small pieces of chicken or hotdog. Leave each portion in a sealed container or bag in the fridge over night. This now becomes a lovely smelly training mix that can be given to your dog over the

entire day for good behaviour. Give kibble for regular obedience and give the real yummys for appropriate toileting, meeting new people, exposure to slightly scary or new things or for any challenging exercises.

- ♥ Mix any left over training mix (or about half the daily ration) with a small amount of low fat yoghurt and stuff in a Kong. Pop this into the freezer for a couple of hours. This makes a great treat for your dog to work on while spending time confined/alone.
- ♥ Do not allow your dog off leash (outside of your secured property) in any circumstance for at least the first 3 months – recall is the most difficult behaviour to teach and you certainly don't want your new dog to learn to not come back to you or worse get away from you and cause trouble.
- ♥ Walk your dog on a front leading harness so that he never learns to pull on leash. If he puts pressure on the leash just stop dead, ignore him and wait for the pressure to subside. Then bound forward and allow him to sniff and continue his walk.
- ♥ Bring your new dog to the vets or the groomers regularly just to hang out so that he is more comfortable when he goes there for real.
- ♥ Handle all of his body areas every day while feeding high value yummys from your other hand.
- ♥ While he is chewing on a Kong or a toy regularly approach him and toss a few treats and then walk away – this teaches your new dog that he doesn't need to guard from you as you are not a threat (in fact when you show up yummys rain from the sky!!)
- ♥ Never force your dog to approach something he is spooked by or afraid of – this will not help. Take note of things he is reluctant to approach and expose him to these things from a distance while feeding him something he really likes.
- ♥ Spend plenty of time getting to know your dog doing things that you both enjoy. Teach your dog that access to things he likes comes through you only – do this by asking him to sit (or for another behaviour) anytime he wants access to something. By doing these things you are developing a great relationship between you and your new pet.
- ♥ After activity such as walks, runs, games or any other high energy activity always spend some time bringing your dog 'down' by helping him to relax. This will help to teach your dog to be calm and will also be easier for him to settle while confined/alone, for nap times or at night.
- ♥ Have your dog sleep in his crate beside your bed for the first few nights – never get him into the habit of being upset at night – this way you have fewer sleepless nights!
- ♥ Do not use any type of tightening collar, spray, startle or shock equipment on your new dog – this stuff is not required and will not make training easier.
- ♥ There is no need to scold, tell your dog off, slap, kick or use any leash corrections on your dog – if your dog makes a mistake it is because you were not supervising closely enough.
- ♥ Never tell a dog off for growling – a growl is a good noise as it acts as a warning – if told off, the next time your dog might not give you a warning.
- ♥ There is no need for you to dominate your new dog or be 'pack leader' – your new dog needs guidance in the human world, not bullying or intimidation.

If you have any questions in relation to the training of and behaviour of your new dog please contact me as soon as possible. Doesn't matter how small or even if you think it's your fault – catch it early so that we can put things right ASAP. Any time I am here to help!

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Check out my blog & website for more resources: <http://petcentral.yolasite.com/> and <http://petcentralpawsitivepetcare.wordpress.com/>

Please remember that your new dog will not arrive perfect – they may have had a tough time in the past and will probably never have had any training. There will be an adjustment period during which you might even consider sending him back to us – don't let it get that far, contact me so that I can help you. Read your pack for lots of info on training and executing all of these exercises – good luck!

You are responsible for your pet's behaviour so please keep him/her and others around him/her safe.

Be well prepared, sympathetic and ready to put in some work - your new pet will repay you a hundred fold.