

## **Congratulations on getting your new dog.**

Bringing a new dog home regardless of its age is a very exciting time for you and your family; it is however one of the most distressing times for your new pet.

There are some things that you can do to help reduce the distress that your new pet will be experiencing. First of all you have taken the first step in the right direction by consulting professional dog training and behaviour advice.

1. (I know this might be a little late but it's important so I have included it!) Thoroughly research the decision to get a new dog and look into the breeder or organization that you will get your dog from. Consult professional dog training and behaviour advice that may help you to choose and prepare for the arrival of your new pet.
2. Have EVERYTHING prepared BEFORE your new pet comes home.
3. Have a clear set of house rules decided upon and stick to them from DAY 1. Don't wait a couple of days before beginning to enforce rules – this will add further distress and confusion to the situation.
4. The individual's adjustment period will vary greatly but a new dog should be given a month to settle in and reveal his true personality. Within this period it is very important to monitor and minimise your new pet's activity. I know you want to introduce him/her to everybody and everywhere but not yet. Introduce your new dog to a few visitors at a time, allow the dog's confidence to build and gradually increase the numbers and types of experiences that he/she is introduced to.
5. Within the adjustment period confine your new dog or supervise him/her for safety (and house training!). The dog should be provided with a safe 'den' that is dog proof and safe – it should be a pleasant place for your pet to spend time. Crate training is a great way of keeping the dog, safe, trained, occupied and protecting your house and belongings.
6. Bring your new dog to an appropriate toileting area as soon as you get it home and once every couple of hours for the first few days. This can be relaxed as your new house training routine begins to set in.
7. Use treats to form positive associations with new experiences such as meeting new people, children, animals, situations. Always make sure that the dog has free access to his safe den so that he can take refuge if he begins to feel upset.
8. Make sure to provide plenty of appropriate chewing outlets. If you catch him/her chewing the wrong thing (usually your shoes or furniture!) do not punish the dog, punish yourself for allowing him/her out of your sights! Re-direct the dog to an appropriate chewing item.
9. Don't give the new dog free access to the entire house straight away. Use a body harness and house line so that you can restrain the dog when needed. Baby gates are a great way of making sure that your new pet is confined to a safe area.
10. Implement a training program including socialisation, basic training, exercise and mental stimulation & daily routine as discussed so as to prevent problems and hopefully begin to reduce any problems already established. This will help to get you started with socialisation, basic training, keeping your pet occupied and developing a secure routine for his/her daily activities making settling in easier for your new companion.