



Your Dog's First Week Home

Before you bring your dog home:

- Gather all necessary supplies: crate, food and water dishes, collar, leash, ID tag, a variety of toys, including several chew toys, treats, etc.
- Dog-proof your home: Put away anything that your dog might chew on, make sure all hazardous chemicals are out of reach, and set up baby gates or close doors to restrict access to areas that will be off-limits to your dog.
- If you plan to change your dog's food from what he is eating now, get a small bag of his current food so you can mix the new food in with the old. Changing over to the new food gradually will be easier on your dog's tummy.
- Set up your dog's crate or bed in a place where he can hang out and be near the family.
- If not using a crate, set up a safe space where your dog can be left while you are gone or not able to watch him. You can include his bed, water dish, and a few chew toys in this space.

When you get your new dog home:

- Take him on leash to the area you have chosen as his potty spot and give him a chance to sniff around.
- Allow him to explore indoors, keeping a close eye on him to make sure he doesn't get into anything he shouldn't. You may want to leave his leash on and let him drag it while he explores to give you control if you need it.
- Introduce your new pet to other pets in your home slowly. See "Pet Introductions" for more detailed information.

The First Week

- Even if your dog is reported to be housetrained, keep an eye on him. Your home is a new environment and your dog doesn't know where the door is. Help him by taking him out regularly and going outside with him so you can praise him when he potties outside.
- Give your new dog several days to settle in and get used to the routine of your household before inviting people over to meet him. Remember, everything is new to him, and having to interact with lots of new people can be overwhelming for even the most social dog.
- Wait a week before bathing and grooming your dog if possible. As with visitors, these things can be stressful and it's best to give your dog a chance to adjust to his new life before being put in stressful situations.