

What to Expect When Bringing a New Dog Home



Congratulations! You fell in love with a cute bundle of fur and just adopted him or her from the shelter. Now you may be wondering what the next steps are, to make the transition a successful one for both you and your new pet. It may be tempting to want to start off your new family member by going on adventures and to meet a lot of new people right out the door, but it's important to take it slow with these steps:

Keep things as simple as possible and try to go straight from the shelter to a quiet place in your home. Having a dog go through a bunch of new experiences at once is called trigger stacking, and that's something we want to try to avoid. To learn more about trigger stacking follow this [link](#) here. Try to have items for your new pet already bought and situated, so you do not need to stop at a store on the way back. When you bring home your new pet, make sure you have a plan and have time set aside to make their transition as easy as possible. Always err on the side of caution of 'less is more' of what you expect your new pet to experience and encounter when first bringing them home!

Go slow with introductions. You might want to introduce your new dog to your whole family as soon as you bring them home. However, this can be very overwhelming to your new pup. Try to take introductions as slow as possible, because then you can set everyone up for a successful relationship. Read some of our other [behavior guides](#) for more information on how to set up introductions!

Do your research, preferably prior to bringing your new dog home. Your new pet may need extra support from a dog trainer or doggie day care, and will need to see a local veterinarian at some point in the near future. For help on how to find a trustworthy dog trainer follow our [link](#) here. If you find yourself wanting/needing to have your pup go to a day care, it is important to do a tour at a prospective facility. Make sure to ask questions that may pertain to your pup, such as; overall time spent in kennel (shy dogs may like more time), if any training is included (and is the trainer certified), and how play dates are monitored. It can also be very helpful to tour a prospective local veterinarian's office as well.

Most dogs will experience some form of adjustment time. Depending on your new dog's past history or personality, adjustment periods can last a couple weeks to a couple months. The more fearful a dog starts at, the longer the adjustment period tends to be. Sometimes, after an adjustment period, your new dog may display different behaviors that you were not expecting. It is not uncommon for new adopters to bring a shy dog home, to discover a couple weeks later that he/she is an energetic, social butterfly