

PREPARING FOR A NEW DOG

So, you want to get a new dog! Dogs can be a wonderful part of your life, but make sure you have considered all factors before adding one to your family.



CONSIDER

- ☐ Dogs can live for 8-16 years
- ☐ Dogs need at least 2 hours of attention per day, not including general companionship time
- ☐ Long haired dogs may need up to 20 minutes of grooming per day
- ☐ All dogs need time for training and exercise. Some breeds need more than others.
- ☐ Dogs need regular vet visits, immunizations, and sometimes costly medical treatment
- ☐ Having a dog is a lifetime responsibility and should not be taken lightly



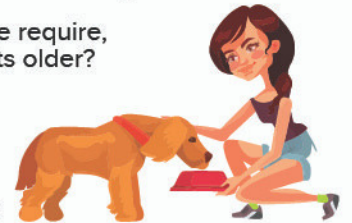
Still interested? Then it is time to prepare for your new canine friend! These steps can ensure an easy transition for both you, and your new pup.

Please consider adopting an adult dog from your local shelter or rescue. Adult dogs make great pets who are already past the crazy puppy stage. Most rescues also have puppies available. They all need great homes!



QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE BRINGING YOUR DOG HOME

- ☐ What food is the dog eating? You will want to slowly transition from the current food to any new food, especially if the diet change is for a medical reason.
- ☐ What is the dog's current feeding schedule? (i.e. once or twice per day, being free fed, etc.)
- ☐ Has the dog had any previous health problems or is on any medication?
- ☐ What vaccinations has the dog already received?
- ☐ Is the dog spayed or neutered?
- ☐ Does the dog have favorite toys, treats, brush, or bedding?
- ☐ Does the dog like to be brushed or have her nails trimmed?
- ☐ How much grooming is required to keep her clean?
- ☐ How much exercise does she require, or will she require as she gets older?
- ☐ Is the dog crate trained?
- ☐ Is she house trained?
- ☐ Is there anything specific the dog loves or is afraid of? (i.e. dogs, kids, vacuum, loud noises, etc.)
- ☐ Does the dog have any known behavior problems? (i.e. chewing, barking when alone, not good with cats, etc.)



ESSENTIAL ITEMS

- ☐ Food and water bowls
- ☐ At least one week's worth of the dog's current food
- ☐ Any medication(s) the dog is current taking
- ☐ Food you plan to feed your dog in the future
- ☐ Treats you know the dog likes
- ☐ Various types of toys
- ☐ Collar with ID tag
- ☐ Leash (regular, not a retractable type as they can be dangerous)
- ☐ Beds or comfortable places to sleep
- ☐ Brushes
- ☐ Nail clippers

Optional Items

- ☐ Dog crate (a must if the dog is a puppy)
- ☐ Exercise pen and baby gates (extra helpful for puppies)
- ☐ Food puzzles for active dogs (i.e. Kongs and food dispenser toys)
- ☐ Anti-chew spray such as Bitter Apple (especially useful for puppies)
- ☐ Cleaning supplies for dogs that are not house trained
- ☐ Dog toothbrush and toothpaste
- ☐ Poop bags for walks





PREPARING FOR YOUR NEW FRIEND

- ☐ Make an appointment with your veterinarian to get your dog checked within a week of coming home.
- ☐ Find out local laws for vaccinations and licensing.
- ☐ Decide on a daily routine for the dog, including feeding time, how and when is she being exercised, and who is responsible for caring for her. Dogs thrive with routine and consistency, especially in the early days.
- ☐ Decide on rules for the dog and make sure the whole family understands them. Will she be allowed on the bed? Where will she sleep at night? Are there areas of the house that are off-limits?
- ☐ If you are getting a puppy or a young dog, sign up for a training class with a local positive style dog trainer.
- ☐ Prepare to housetrain the dog. If she is a puppy, she will surely need housetraining. However, even adult dogs will need to learn the rules of your home. If you assume she is not housetrained then you will set her up for success.
- ☐ Prepare a safe space for your dog when you are not home or when she needs a break. This can be a crate or a small room that does not have any items that are easily chewed up.
- ☐ Puppy-proof your home. Make sure cords are hidden, plants and medications are out of reach, and the trash is inaccessible. Adult dogs are just as likely to get in to these items as puppies.
- ☐ Make sure your fence (if you have one) is secure and does not have any holes. If you do not have a fence then plan on keeping your dog on leash at all times.
- ☐ Plan your trip home. Have someone in the car just to help with the dog. If possible, consider using a secured crate to make sure the dog and the driver are safe.
- ☐ Have treats ready. Food is one of the best ways to introduce dogs to new people and environments.



DURING THE TRANSITION

- ☐ Consider taking your dog for a long walk before bringing her into the home. This will help burn off nervous energy.
- ☐ Plan to have someone home for at least a few days to help your new pup get used to the house and routine.
- ☐ Keep the house low-key for at least a few days while your dog adjusts. It is fun to show off your new dog, but lots of people can be overwhelming for the pup.
- ☐ Set up a neutral meeting space for your new dog and any other dogs in your household. Make sure they are comfortable together in this space before bringing them into the house.
- ☐ If you have cats or other small creatures, give them a safe place to escape from the new dog.
- ☐ At first, keep your dog on leash so you can monitor her behavior. This will prevent potty accidents in the house, chasing cats, chewing on furniture and any other unforeseeable problems.

Getting a new dog is a time of excitement and joy!

Hopefully these tips help make the process as smooth and easy as possible!



Wet Noses
PET SITTING

