



OPERATION PAWS FOR HOMES

Operation Paws for Homes

Guide for New Arrivals

Greetings to you and your lucky dog, and best wishes on a safe arrival and smooth adjustment period into their new home. Below is a basic guide to help you transition after adoption while everyone settles in with a new member of the family.

We have a new dog! Now what?!

Bringing home a new four legged family member is exciting! But there are a few important things to remember. Dogs need time to adjust to new environments just like humans! Count on your new dog marking or having accidents in the first few days. This will happen even if they are housetrained. You should also be prepared for some transitional behavioral problems. Each dog will need to adjust to the rules and schedule of your home.

Dogs are like people and may need a couple of days to adjust to their new surroundings. Please understand that the dog food you bought... may not be what they want initially. Your new addition may have loose stool when transitioning to a new food. If you encounter this, be sure to add chicken and rice (boiled – human version) to their diet to help with the transition. If they don't seem interested, add wet food or chicken to their food to encourage them to eat. If the problem persists beyond the first 24 hours (or is accompanied by vomiting or diarrhea) then let us know and contact a vet. If you do not contact us, we cannot help in problem solving. Remember – this is a dog, not an electronic and things can happen!

Dogs are pack animals, so you should be the leader in their eyes. As their leader, you should set them up for success... not failure. So look around and "dog proof" your home. Don't leave out shoes or other items they may try to chew on. Don't leave your new dog unattended in the home. When you are unable to supervise them, confine them to a crate, kitchen or other secure area. When walking, remember that this is a dog! Keep them on a leash to avoid them darting in front of a car or running to chase a neighbor's cat.

Additional Guidance:

For housetraining or housebreaking complications:

- <http://www.dogbreedinfo.com/housebreaking.htm>
- <http://www.cuhumane.org/topics/hseold.html>
- <http://www.housebreakingadog.org/>

For behavioral related issues including dominance and aggression:

- <http://www.wonderDog.net/canwehelp/behaveD.htm>
- <http://www.canismajor.com/dog/aggres1.html>
- <http://www.dogsonly.org/Dominance.html>

For a quick reference-style guide on generic symptoms and illnesses, please refer to the guide that has been included in your welcome packet. When a physical condition may require emergency medical care, here is an easy checklist: <http://www.canismajor.com/dog/emerlist.html>

- A favorite, that will cover the importance of ownership, general training advice, obedience tips. The official dog training headquarters itself: <http://www.dogtraininghq.com/>
- Another Puppy Textbook online: www.dogstardaily.com

Please don't hesitate to contact your adoption coordinator if there are any concerns that are beyond the advice that follows. And thank you for everything that you have done.

Dog Chewing Tips

Dogs need to chew. It's part of their growing and learning process. They chew to learn about their environment, exercise their jaws, test their rank in the pack, ease the pain of teething and just pass the time. It's nearly impossible to stop a Dog from chewing all together so it's easiest to try to channel the chewing to chew toys.

Providing your Dog with approved chewing opportunities will help to eliminate the chances for him/her to chew things they shouldn't. Anytime your Dog is left in a crate or secured space, it should have a chew toy available to keep it busy. In fact, it's not a bad idea to provide your Dog something to chew on at all times as someone can't be playing with or paying attention to him/her at all times.

Keeping the Dog under constant supervision when you're home is the easiest way to avoid unwanted chewing. This is very tough and time consuming.

If you do catch your Dog chewing, make an "aagghhtt" sound and remove the object from the Dog (or the Dog from the object if it's something large like a piece of furniture). Immediately provide a suitable substitute for the Dog to chew on and praise the Dog for chewing the approved object.

Taste deterrents such as Bitter Apple can be used also. These will leave an unpleasant taste in the Dog's mouth and discourage it from chewing that object again.

*Warning—if you chose to use a taste deterrent make sure to test it in a hidden place first to ensure it does not stain or discolor the item it is being used on.

You can also use a Kong and stuff it with all natural peanut butter for your Dog to chew on. You can freeze the Kong, adding longer lasting mental and physical stimulation for your Dog. The cold will also help ease the pain of teething.

Just don't forget, it is perfectly natural for your Dog to chew and you should expect it to. It's YOUR responsibility to make sure he/she is chewing the appropriate items. Dog proofing a house should be very similar to child proofing a house!

Worms

Yes, Dogs do have worms sometimes! We deworm the dogs the minute they enter foster care. However, one deworming may not be enough. Some websites suggest that 90% of Dogs have some form of worm. Additionally, a second or third deworming is often needed to kill off the hatched eggs that the first deworming did not eliminate. If you see worms within the first week or two of bringing home your new Dog, please email us! Please contact us if you run into this issue. It's a fact of Doghood! We hope we get them all, but if we don't, please send a note!

Make Copies

Please be sure to make a copy of all of your records. You never know when a four-legged someone may find them and try to snack on them!

Smart Shopping!

Websites we recommend for your dog! There are great deals out there –

Entirely Pets, 1-800-Petmeds, PetCareRx, and www.budgetpetcare.com.