

Bringing home YOUR NEW DOG

Bringing your dog home from the shelter is an exciting time for both of you, but for the dog it can also be a stressful event. Preparing your home and making the effort to create a safe space for your new family member will make everything go much smoother!

Setting Your New Dog Up For Success

Create a Safe Space

- Set up a cozy area where your dog can relax, such as a covered crate or a soft bed in a quiet, low-traffic spot like a bedroom or a calm corner of the living room. This gives them a place to retreat and observe their new environment at their own pace.

House Training Basics

- Take your dog outside frequently and reward them with a tasty treat when they go in the right spot. Positive reinforcement helps them learn where they should do their business.

Manage Their Environment

- Use baby gates to block off areas you don't want them to access or to give them space if they feel overwhelmed by visitors.
- Remove rugs or items that could be tempting to chew on or have accidents on.
- Keep treats in convenient spots around your home to reward good behavior and to "trade" if your dog picks up something they shouldn't have.

Help Them Feel Secure

- If possible, avoid leaving your dog home alone for the first **48 hours**. This helps them adjust to their new environment with you there for reassurance.