

ADOPTING A NEW DOG

- Safe Space
- What to do at home
- Creating a Routine
- Introducing them to family



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Safe Space

What is a safe space? A safe space is a private place in your home that your dog can always access and feel comfortable sleeping in. This place should be clean, comfortable, confined, and away from busy parts of your home.

What can I use to make a safe space? A safe space can be made out of a crate with soft bedding or a dog bed. Remember that your dog should be able to stand up and turn around comfortably within his/her crate. Food and water should be stored in or close to your dog's safe space.

Important! It is very important that the safe spaces actually makes your dogs feel safe, so try to avoid disturbing them while they are there.



At Home

When bringing your new dog home, first give your dog a guided tour of your home on a leash. Don't take them to parts of the house that they won't be allowed in. Allow them to smell everything. Be sure to show them their 'safe space' in the house.

Next, take them outside and show them where they should go to toilet. After that take them off of their leash and let them explore the house and yard on their own.



Creating a routine

It is very important that dogs have some sort of routine as soon as possible after moving into a new home. It can help them adjust to their new lifestyle, allowing them to be more comfortable.

You can create a routine by feeding them at the same time every day, walking them at the same time every day and shutting lights off/taking them to bed the same time each day.

Introductions to family members.

When you are starting to introduce your dog to different members of your family, it's important to start slowly. Keep other dogs and children away at first. Introduce people one at time and always allow your dog a chance to leave the introduction if they are feeling overwhelmed or scared.

After meeting a new person allow your dog to rest before immediately meeting someone else. Teach children how to interact with a new pet before allowing them to meet. When introducing other pets, do it one at a time and make sure you keep both animals under control, if needed on leashes. No matter who your dog is meeting, stay close and watch at all times.

Sources

Gollakner R. 10 Tips for the First 30 days after Adopting a Dog.

<https://www.petmd.com/dog/care/10-tips-first-30-days-after-adopting-dog>

Dog Adoption Tips: Rescue Dogs
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