

INTRODUCTION TO NEW ENVIROMENT

1. During the car ride home keep the dog away from the driver's seat, safe and secure either in back tethered or kenneled.
2. Take the dog on a leash walk prior to entering the home and make sure he/she eliminates outside before coming into the home. Enjoy this time observing your new pet. (Even if you have fenced yard leave on leash.) Do not play with them until they have eliminated.
3. Provide your new member of your family with their own area, whether it is a crate/kennel, small room, and do not give them free access to the whole house the first day. You can walk them through on a leash, this will help establish the rules right away and help master housebreaking.
4. You can easily change the dog/puppy's name by playing the name game, where you use a treat and say the new name and the dog looks you in the eyes and gets the treat immediately day one. Day two, and in the future the dog has to work a little harder. You add time to the eye contact so eventually (where ever) the dog is and no matter what they are doing if they hear their name they come running. Their name is never used in a negative tone.
5. Depending upon the dog/puppy and the temperament handling exercises should be an important part of their daily routine. So we begin by putting a collar and leash on the pet. The pet has to wear this the first few days (if not longer). We never reach over the dog/puppy's head. Instead, we approach the animal from the side or reach under the chin and holding the collar (we can add a command word of 'Gotcha!'). This will work its way into grooming and handling feet, ears, and tail.
6. Say Please! Means the pet always has to do something for us to get our attention, not the other way around.

Example: if the pet jumps up on you and gets a reaction from you by pushing them off or you verbally correcting them the pet gets negatively reinforced. Instead you should remove your attention and only acknowledge the pet for sitting nicely or moving away from you.

All of these tips will help make your adoption more successful; you and your new member of your family happier by setting rules and boundaries from the start.