

Tips provided by [PAW Rescue](#), they are a fantastic information resource!

KEY POINTS AND VITAL ADVICE

- Count on a dog marking or having accidents the first few days, even if he was housetrained. Have pet-specific cleaning products on hand. Also be prepared for other transitional behavioral problems
- Along with the rewards of having a dog come responsibilities - daily care and exercise, medical visits, obedience training and many years of commitment. Are you ready?
- Owner knowledge and training is the key to a successful adoption. It's all up to you. No one training approach is right for every dog. These tips help reflect a variety of approaches based on positive reinforcement - the essence of effective training and behavior modification.
- Keep an ID tag attached to a snug buckle collar on your dog at all times.
- During the transition period, a dog needs time to adjust to the rules and schedule of your household. And he needs your leadership! A dog is a pack animal looking for guidance, and it is up to you to teach him good, acceptable behaviors. If the human does not take charge, the dog will try to.
- A dog cannot do damage unless you let that happen. Watch your new dog during the transition period. When you can't supervise, keep her in a kitchen, crate or other secure area with chew toys.
- Keep dogs on-leash when outdoors in unfenced areas. Otherwise, you'll have no control if your dog obeys instinct and chases a squirrel into the street...tussles with another dog...or runs after a child.
- Supervise even when the dog's in a fenced yard. If there's a way to escape, most dogs will find it.
- Beware of letting your dog on your bed or furniture if you haven't established all human family members as the leaders ("alpha"). Dominance-related problems often arise when a dog is on a higher physical level. Dogs don't seek equality; they seek and need leadership.
- Don't issue a command unless you are in a position to enforce it. Telling a dog to do something, then not guiding him to obey if he chooses not to, teaches him to ignore you.
- Beware of sending mixed signals that bad behavior is cute or entertaining.
- Teach dogs good house manners from the start. For the first few days you have a dog, keep him or her in the same room with you - so that if the dog needs to potty, you can rush him outdoors...and so that if he engages in unapproved behavior, you can instantly correct the dog and substitute a more positive behavior. For example, removing the shoe from his mouth, then substituting a toy and praising.
- Do not keep dogs in dark places such as basements, garages, or non-family areas; all the time this would work against you in your efforts to raise a socialized, well-behaved, house-trained animal.
- Avoid using overly desirable treats such as rawhides or pig hooves. Dogs will often fight with each other over them, and even attack people they perceive might desire their treats.
- Play nice: Don't play tug-o-war, rough-house, or engage in other combative play. These practices encourage aggression and teach your dog to challenge you.
- Avoid separation anxiety-related problems by practicing the tips in this guide as well as consulting other sources at the end of this guide.
- Start day one by teaching your dog appropriate behavior through consistent, positive reinforcement.
- Realize there is always a solution to any problem - read and consult trainers.