



Bringing Home Your New Dog



First Day Home

Bringing a new dog home can be stressful and exciting for everyone involved. Remember that your new dog has probably been through a lot the last few days or weeks.

They may have been lost on the streets or surrendered by a previous owner before being taken home by you. Being adopted into a new family can be extremely overwhelming and there will be an adjustment period.

Introductions

If you have other pets at home, take your time introducing your new dog to them. It is always a good idea to do a scheduled meet-and-greet at the shelter with your other dogs before adopting your new dog. This is a required part of the adoption process at West Valley Humane Society

See our handout "Introducing Your New Dog To Your Resident Dog" for more information on how to do a successful introduction. Other animals, like cats, take longer getting used to having a new dog in their home. See our handout "Introducing Cats To Household Pets" for more information on how to do a successful introduction with cats.

Introduction

WVHS is so excited you decided to adopt!

We want this to be a positive experience so that you and your new dog can live happily together for a long time.

Here are some tips for starting out on the right "paw."

What To Do

- Establish a routine
- Allow your new dog to get used to their new home
- Allow your new dog to adjust to their new life

Training

Training is an important step to take that should be taken early, no matter what age your new dog is.

Training is an amazing way to connect with your pet and can develop a strong relationship between your new dog and your household. It is a great way to establish boundaries, routine, expectations and trust.

Training with puppies can help with Socialization. Socializing puppies is crucial to their development and will help you have a well-rounded adult dog. We recommend training for all dogs using positive, fear-free reinforcement techniques.



3-3-3

Your new dog will need time to decompress from the time they have spent in the shelter. The general rule of thumb is it takes 3 days to decompress from the kennel environment, 3 weeks to start to settle into a routine, and 3 months to truly relax and feel at home.

Patience, consistency, routine and forming trust are an important part of introducing a dog to their new home. Please see our resource guide on "The Rule of Three" for more information.

G.I. Upset

Your new dog may experience diarrhea when they first go home. GI issues are common with stress and diet change. Due to being donation based, we feed mixed dog food at the shelter. Some GI issues are expected when switching to a routine diet. This will generally resolve in approximately 5 days.

Canned, pure pumpkin or fresh/pureed pumpkin is a great addition to their current diet. Pumpkin is a great source of nutrition & fiber. Plus, most animals find it to be a yummy treat! A good rule of thumb is 1 tsp of pumpkin for every 10 pounds that your animal weighs.

Plain, unsweetened, Greek yogurt is also a great option. It has probiotics that help replace healthy bacteria in their stomach. 1 tbsp is an adequate amount per day. If the animal is showing additional symptoms, such as lethargy, vomiting, dehydration, etc., please fill out a vet check form for the shelter veterinarian. If it is an emergency, please take your pet to your veterinarian.

