

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW FAMILY MEMBER!

NOW WHAT?

Before you bring home your new dog - Ensure a smooth transition in to your home:

- Hold a family meeting to create rules about caring for the dog. Will he be allowed on the couch, in all rooms, where will he sleep and eat? Who will take him for daily walks and clean up after him? As a family you should all be on the same page and consistent with your decisions or the dog will be confused.
- Have all the necessary items your dog will need from the start. Saving Paws Rescue AZ will provide you with a collar, an ID tag, and a small supply of food. Other necessary items would be a leash, grain-free food and water bowls, dog toys, bedding, basic grooming tools and a crate.
- Bring your new dog home when you can be there for a few days (ideally) so you can supervise him as he learns your house rules.
- Just before you bring your new dog in to your home, take him for a walk to tire him out a little. Walks are not only good exercise, but they serve as a training tool and an opportunity to establish the lines of communication.

Introducing your new dog to other dogs:

- The initial introduction should have occurred at Saving Paws Rescue; however, please realize that things may be different when you bring your new dog in to your home. Take all your dogs on a relaxed, casual short walk through the neighborhood.
- Make the walk fun by adding in some treats (timed to reward good, relaxed behavior). Pet the resident dogs, assuring them everything is ok. Be careful to reward only good behavior.
- When the dogs come inside, leave the leashes on for quick control if needed.
- Keep all toys and treats out of sight for several days to avoid any toy protecting.
- The resident dog may be insecure about his place in the pack. Reassure him, but do not let him misbehave or mistreat the newcomer. Resist the temptation to spoil either dog or allow bad habits you'll have to break later.
- Acclimation can take days or weeks. Be sure to give each pet 10 or 15 minutes of quality time alone with you each day – play, brush, massage, practice rewardable skills, etc.

The first day(s):

As an adopter of a new rescue dog, understand he will need some time to adjust (up to 2 weeks) and transition in to his new home, new family, new fur siblings, new schedule and new expectations and communication style. He has been through a difficult journey, most of which is unknown to us. He may have been given up or lost, and he may have been in a noisy shelter. He's been handled by strangers, bathed, vaccinated, sterilized and landed in completely unfamiliar surroundings. For many of our rescue dogs, this may be the first time they've felt a gentle human hand, gotten petted and had a full tummy. These changes will create stress on your dog. He may not eat much or anything for the first few meals and he may experience bowel changes. Listed below are suggestions to help make the transition a little smoother:

- At first, limit your dog to one room or area. This allows him time to become familiar with the smells and sounds of his new home. Try to limit your time away from home those first days.
- Don't force yourself on him. Give him his space. He may try to avoid you or not want you to touch him. Let him come to you for comfort and affection when he is ready.
- Keep your dog on a leash while he's inside your home the first few days so you can immediately teach him which behaviors are and are not acceptable. NEVER leave a leash on your dog when he is unsupervised.
- Do not leave your new rescue dog alone in the house with your existing pets until you have carefully monitored and controlled their interactions for a period of time.
- Expect housetraining accidents. Your dog is in new territory and is establishing a new routing, so accidents probably will happen.
- He may exhibit nervous behaviors such as whining, barking, or pacing. Ignore these negative behaviors while praising him when he's relaxed, quiet and calm.
- Dogs instinctively like to den, so a crate or dark corner makes the ideal place for your dog to sleep and get away from the household activity. While crate training also makes housetraining and training in general easier, limit the amount of the time the dog is crated. The crate should be roomy enough to allow your dog to stand up, turn around, and lie down comfortably. As an alternative to a crate, dog-proof a part of your home, such as a laundry room. You can use a tall climb-proof baby gate or dog gate to block off the area from the rest of the house.
- Limit guest visits to allow your dog to get comfortable with his new family and new surroundings. When you do have guests, ask their help in training your dog by instructing them not to pay attention to him until he has calmed down.

Information Retrieved from the following websites:

www.gsgsrescue.org

www.adoptapet.com

www.paw-rescue.org