

Doggie Day One



Starting Out Right

	Introduce the crate. Your pooch has been living in a shelter, so introducing the crate now will be a much easier transition than it will be later when he'd gotten accustomed to the cushy life.
	Some alone time. Include private time for your new dog to be in his crate right from day one. Constant human companionship early on can make aloneness more difficult later on.
	Have meals in the crate. There's no better way to build happy feelings about the crate than to use it for meals.
	Don't have a party! Make your first evening together at home calm and quiet. Your new pup has had some big changes today – waking up in a shelter and then finding himself in a new home. So give him some time to figure it all out.
	A quiet place to call home. Make sure that the crate is not in a high-traffic area in the house. You want crate-time to be quiet, sleepy time.
	Don't assume housetraining. Your shelter dog has been living in a kennel run and has had a chaotic, unpredictable walk schedule. Exercise supervision and crating techniques to help him (re)learn this important skill.

Coming Home to a Multi-Pet Household

	Dog howdy dos should be on neutral turf. Take the new canine "siblings" for a parallel walk away from the house. When you return, have the new dog enter the house first and keep the dogs on leash.
	No cats today! If your dog is coming into a cat household, don't plan on making an introduction right away. This is a <i>process</i> .
	Crating out of the fray. Make sure that the crate is not in a room where other pets have freedom to roam. You don't want your new dog to feel cornered or to have interactions with the other pets that you are not in control of.

Shopping List

	Crate	Buy a crate larger than your dog with a divider that can be used now to make it exactly dog-sized for housetraining purposes. Then, once housetrained, you can make it larger for roominess.
	Bowls	One for food, one for water.
	Kong	One large enough to feed meals out of. The Busy Buddy Twist 'n Treat , the Tricky Treat Ball and West Paw Tux toys provide good variety.
	Collar	A martingale collar is often best, as it adjusts in size and is more secure.
	Leash	Buy a 4- to 6-foot leash of either leather or nylon. Do <i>not</i> opt for a Flexi-leash.
	No-Pull Equipment	Using an Easy Walk ® harness or a Gentle Leader ® headcollar (both made by Premier) can reduce pulling with a dog who doesn't know how to loose-leash walk yet.
	Food	We will have provided you with a sample of food that your dog has been eating with us. However, now's a good time to transition him to a better food.
	Treats	Treats help with training, and training builds relationship. Buy small soft treats – <i>Natural Balance Food Rolls</i> are a good choice.
	Toys	Ball, tug toy, squeaky toy... figure out your dog's favorite games!
	NylaBone	Give your new dog something to satisfy his oral needs.
	Bed	For now, use old towels or blankets as bedding until you are sure that your dog isn't a chewer. Invest in a nice comfy bed a little later.