



Setting Your New Dog Up for Success

Congratulations on adopting your new dog!

To ease the transition into their new home, consider the following:

Time for Adjustment

Welcoming a new dog into your family is an exciting milestone, so it's tempting to want to show them off to the world. Every dog is different, but it generally takes a few weeks to a few months for them to decompress from their time in the shelter, acclimate to their new surroundings and establish a routine.

Introducing Your New Pet

Take your time introducing your new dog to other people and pets in your home. Allow them to acclimate at their own pace. Supervise all interactions until everyone is comfortable. **This takes weeks to months.** It's important to prioritize a slow and cautious approach to prevent negative experiences that could require lengthy recovery.

Creating a Safe Space

Walk through your home and pick up any items that might be harmful to your pet. Are there wires your new dog could chew? Are there any plants that are toxic to pets?

Consider crate training or blocking off a room with a pet gate as a safe space for your new dog. Make either option inviting and cozy with a comfortable bed, toys, and a water bowl. This space provides a sense of security and serves as a place to retreat when they need some quiet time.

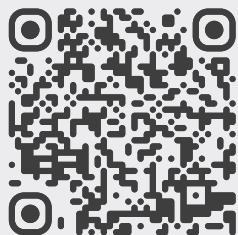
Over time, gradually introduce your new dog to the rest of your home while under your supervision. Allow them to explore and adjust at their own pace. Observe their behavior and comfort level and provide positive reinforcement and rewards when they show confidence in new areas.

You can learn about plants that may be toxic to pets and find resources for crate training and creating a safe space by clicking the QR code on the reverse side.

Supplies & Tasks Checklist

Make sure you have the following essentials to make your dog feel right at home:

- Food and water bowls
- Food (We encourage a slow transition to a new diet.)
- Treats for training and enrichment
- Collar and ID tags (Don't forget to complete their microchip and license registration!)
- Toys: Offer a diverse selection of materials to cater to your dog's various needs, including comfort, interaction and enrichment. Be sure to include chew toys/items. Monitor for preference and safety.
- Leash and harness
- Crate and bedding
- Grooming supplies: brush, nail clippers, etc.
- Explore pet insurance options
- Establish veterinary care
It's important to find a veterinarian for your new pet ASAP to continue any necessary preventative care (e.g. vaccines, flea/tick prevention), review history and records and make a care plan for your new family member.
- Enroll in a training class at Seattle Humane to enhance your dog's socialization, reinforce good behavior, prevent problems and bond with your pup. Sign up for a class at seattlehumane.org/dog-training.



By establishing these essentials in a safe and loving environment, you're setting your new dog up for success for years to come. Practice patience and understanding with them and with yourself as you both adjust to life together.

For partner offers, resources, links and handouts on important health and behavior topics, visit the QR code or go to SeattleHumane.org/advice-for-adopters.

At Seattle Humane, we are committed to finding the right match for both you and our animals. However, we understand that despite the best efforts and intentions, a pet may not be the right fit for your home or lifestyle. We encourage you to rehome on your own if you are comfortable, but we welcome any adopted pet back at any point in their life.

Visit seattlehumane.org/pet-rehoming for tips on rehoming, or if you need to return the pet to our care, complete an Intake Form and our dedicated Intake team will assist you with the process. We do not accept walk-in surrenders—all surrenders are by appointment only. For after-hour emergency surrenders, please contact your local animal control agency.

