

**10 things to know when welcoming your new friend into your Home and Heart!**

1. Your new dog or cat will go through an adjustment period as he gets to know his new people, learns new rules and adjusts to a new environment. Most dogs and cats adjust within a few days, but others may take longer.
2. During this time, avoid forcing the dog to do anything stressful like taking a bath, obedience training classes, meeting too many strangers and/or dogs at once, etc.
3. Take things easy at first and give the dog or cat time to bond with them. Keep the home environment calm and quiet for the first couple of weeks. Some animals might not eat for the first day or two. Not to worry – they will eat when their ready.
4. Some animals temporarily forget their training. A well-housebroken dog may have an accident during the first day in his new home. This isn’t unusual and rarely happens more than once.
5. You may think about investing in a crate so that your new dog/cat has a safe place to go when unsupervised and/or when he starts to feel anxious.
6. Puppies and kittens may be a little depressed at first. For many of them this is their first time on their own, so everything is new and a bit overwhelming. Try to give lots, of love, praise and understanding.
7. Many of our animals come from situations involving extreme abuse and/or neglect. Try to avoid lots of noise, yelling, or rough housing. The first week in a new home is crucial in building an animals confidence in their new home and family.
8. Mild separation anxiety is natural at first. Try to reassure your new friend that you are always coming back by making short trips with lots of praise upon return. When leaving the space be very nonchalant. If its not a big deal to you, it won’t be a big deal to them.
9. Senior dogs especially will go through what we have dubbed a Second Puppyhood. They may chew, dig holes, or even bounce around like a puppy. Don’t encourage the behavior and if it persists past a week we can give you some information to help your friend get back on track.
10. Lots of love. Take the time to bond and let your new friend know that this is their forever home. Most of the animals from our rescue have been through a lot in their life, let them know that the future with you is bright and loving.

If you have ANY questions or concerns, we are here for you. Reach out via phone, text, or email at any point. No matter how big or small we want to support our pet parents completely!

Thank you so much for choosing to adopt!

Helping Paws Rescue

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