



IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO HELP YOUR NEW DOG SETTLE IN TO YOUR HOME



HOW TO KEEP YOUR DOG SAFE AND HAPPY

TIPS & TRICKS

SAFETY FIRST



Here are some VERY important first steps you need to take to keep your dog safe, from day one.

It is more than likely that your dog will be used to being in an enclosed space. You will naturally feel the need to give him / her lots of freedom. However, if you do this too soon it could at a minimum make your dog feel insecure and at worse, you could lose your new addition.

Firstly, make sure he / she is kept on a lead at all times (even in the car) until you are sure that they will come to you when called. This way, if they get spooked, they can't run away or hurt themselves.

Secondly, make sure that everyone in your house is aware of the risk when opening doors in your house – make sure the dog cannot run out. It is always good to be over cautious.



MICROCHIPPING SERVICE

We are fully qualified to microchip implant and update existing microchips for your beloved pooch!

For just £20 for a microchip implant and £15 to update existing microchip details with new owner details. Message us today to book an appointment or to find out how we can update your current microchip record.

It is now the law that every dog must have a microchip and have their current owner details updated on its record.



FOOD & WATER

Your new dog may experience a poor tummy when they first arrive in the UK. This is normal. Just like humans, when we drink different water from a different country, or have food we are not used to, it can take a while for our tummies to adjust.

1. Make sure your dog always has access to clean water. Don't be surprised if they prefer to drink out of drains and puddles, but encourage them to drink clean water whenever possible;
2. Speak to your vet about a good diet for the age, size and suspected breed of your dog;
3. If your dog has a unwell tummy, rice (cooled down) and some scrambled egg or cooked chicken (no bones) is a good starter to help their tummies settle. Then slowly mix / introduce their dog food with this;
4. Be careful not to overfeed your new dog. If they are a little on the skinny side, this will only hurt their tummies and potentially cause you a mess to clean up.



MANNERS FROM DAY 1

Your new dog will probably not know what cooking is, and potentially will not have been fed from a plate. Unless you want a dog that begs in the kitchen / at the table for food, it's a good idea to keep it this way. It will also keep them happier (ignorance is bliss as it reduces stress).

Where possible, keep them out of the kitchen when cooking. Don't feed them treats from there and don't feed them from the table. Give them their food / treats in the same area everyday and when you are ready. This way, they won't ever be tempted to request you to share your food with them! It will also help to position you as the 'pack leader' ... ensuring they don't suffer from the stress / anxiety that not being in this position can cause them.

**TEACH GOOD MANNERS &
EARN THEIR RESPECT.**



CRATE TRAINING - YES OR NO?

Training crates for dogs are too often deemed cruel. In fact, they are both a training and safety device and as such can benefit dog and owner alike. Crating on a humane schedule teaches puppies and dogs bladder / bowel control and limits chewing. A dog crated in a car has a better chance of surviving an auto accident and little chance of causing one. If used correctly, they make your dog feel safe and secure. So consider it and if you feel it would help you and your dog, research thoroughly before using.



TOILET TRAINING

It is more than likely that your new dog won't be toilet trained / will be used to having to go to the toilet in the same area that they eat and sleep. The good news is that you can train old and young dogs where you want them to go to the toilet ... and it's not as difficult as you think if you follow these steps:

1. Choose where you want your dog to eliminate and what word that you and your family will use to 'command'
2. Take the dog to the elimination spot 10 – 15 minutes after they eat / wake up and give them the command
3. Repeat the command when they are 'eliminating'. Praise them and tell them how happy you are when they have done their business in the correct spot.

When it comes to toilet training, it's never too late to teach an old dog new tricks.

MORE TOILET TRAINING TIPS

You may want to consider crate training to help you toilet train your dog. That way, you can supervise them when they are out of the crate and follow the 3 steps as outlined on the left.

It is also important to use the same door when you take them out to their 'elimination spot' as they will learn to signal at this door to let you know what they need. Watch them and understand their signals.

Every dog will be different.



Be careful to never reprimand a dog when mistakes are made.

When you are unhappy with your dog, it assumes that whatever it is doing at the exact moment you show disapproval is the thing that is upsetting you. That is why some dogs look ashamed after they have made a mistake. They know you are unhappy with the mess on the floor, but don't understand you are unhappy with the fact they did it. Avoid letting the dog see you clean up the mess. If a mistake is made, only say 'no' if you catch them in the act. Then, immediately take them to the correct spot. If your dog is small enough, you can pick them up if they are doing a wee and they will stop. The same does not apply to number 2s! This, they cannot stop 'mid flow'.

As a guide, at 6 weeks old – elimination will be every hour, at 2 months the pup should have 2 – 3 hours of control, 3 months – about 4 hours (many dogs can go all night at 3 months), 4 months and up – 5 hours.

BE THE PACK LEADER

A dog's two primary needs are exercise and a dominant pack leader.

Dogs are a pack-oriented species, so they require everyone to be either dominant or submissive. If you do not establish yourself as dominant over your dog, s/he will assume the role. This can lead to problems: s/he may become tense, overprotective, or possessive when people come near you; s/he may become territorial about your home or suffer from separation anxiety when you go out; s/he may become hyperactive. These things happen because you're not in control and they're not taking their cues from you.

However, unfortunately, people misunderstand that being the pack leader is NOT about being aggressive, it is NOT telling off the dog, it is NOT about teaching the dog tricks. It IS about gaining your dog's respect and helping them to relax.

THERE ARE MANY GOOD REASONS TO BE A PACK LEADER:

- Your dog is less likely to attempt to harm you, your family, or other people
- Your dog will not pull on his leash during walks
- Your dog will remain well behaved, even around other dogs who may or may not be
- Your dog will learn to respect your possessions
- Reduces constant barking or whining
- Your dog will be less anxious and nervous
- Your dog will be happier and more content.

SIMPLY - TRY TO THINK LIKE A PACK LEADER,

- Decides where the pack will go & how they will behave
- Decides when the pack will eat
- Decides who gets what food
- Decides who is allowed to bark and when
- Decides when the pack is allowed to play
- Decides what the pack is allowed to play with
- Decides who owns what
- Always walks in the front
- Can take anything away from any dog in his pack and claim it as his own.



There is a lot of reading you can and should do on this subject ... however they are all very simple adjustments – go through the door or gate first / make sure your dog walks behind you / don't fuss the dog if they are whining, crying or barking / ask your dog to come to you versus going to your dog ... And remember, pack leaders don't get angry or shout, it's all about confidence, respect and body language. Your dog should want to make you happy and follow you out of respect, not fear. So lead your dog, love your dog and most of all ... give it a reason to respect and follow you!



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