

Top 10 Ways to add a New Dog to your home

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10. Put an id tag on the collar immediately with your cell phone number and address.
9. Set up an exam with your veterinarian to discuss diet, heartworm prevention, behavior and exercise needs
8. Go on short fun, 5 - 10 minute walks 3-4 times a day in different areas in the neighborhood. Give the dog some treats as you pass by school yards, parks or meeting new people
7. Keep the dog on a schedule of regular meals, walks, exercise and play time. Routines help a dog to feel secure and decrease anxiety.
6. Set up a crate, or small room and make a game of tossing dinner into the crate, closing the door as your dog eats, and walking away. This prevents separation anxiety
5. Give every household member a care task for this dog to spread out bonding with all the family
4. Add a bed, own food and water bowl and toys for this dog. Prevent competing for resources
3. Do not hit, swat, yell, roll over, use electronic collars for training
2. Interrupt , rough housing or "spats" by calling the dogs apart and give each a reward.

And the number one thing to insure a good blending of your new dogs into the home -

1. follow privileges of rank – the oldest, biggest or dog living in the home the longest is always petted first, fed first and allowed out the door first. Then the rest fall into the order of oldest/biggest/ living in the home.

Many rescue dogs have separation anxiety, barrier frustration, inter dog aggression, or resource guarding as behavior problems that led them to surrender. Following these 10 steps can prevent these problems from arising. If you are having troubles after following these steps, please consult a DVM through the directory at avsab.org.

Webinars, blog articles, videos and behavior consults at www.drssallyjfoote.com



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