



Your Guide For Bringing Home A New Dog

Caller's Canines is excited to announce the release of its latest professional guide, "What To Expect When Bringing Home A New Dog." This comprehensive resource is designed for new dog owners, providing essential insights and expert advice on making the transition smoother for both the pet and owner. Key sections include **Before You Adopt**, which highlights considerations for potential dog owners; **Meeting Your New Dog**, which offers tips for a successful introduction; and **DOs & DON'Ts** that outline best practices for dog care. Additionally, the guide covers the **First Days at Home**, strategies for **Building the Relationship**, an essential **Supplies Checklist**, and a curated list of **Recommended Chews & Snacks**. With this guide, Caller's Canines aims to empower dog owners with the knowledge needed to foster a loving and supportive environment for their new companions.

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First, Ask Yourself

- Will your household be able to help the dog adjust at home for at least the first 7 days?
- Do you have or planning to have children?
 - Do your children understand boundaries with dogs?
- Is your yard fenced?
- If not, are you willing to commit to an exercise schedule?
- Is your yard free of plants that are poisonous to dogs?
- Is your fence free of gaps or holes where a dog could escape? If they start digging are you willing to intervene and add a in ground barrier to prevent an escape?
- Does your Apartment, HOA, Home Owner's Insurance have breed or weight restrictions?
- If you are renting, do you understand that looking for a place with a dog might be troublesome when needing a lease renewal and come with extra monthly fees?
- Did you research the dog breed and learn its characteristics?
- Did you research the energy levels and exercise needs of the breed?
- If you have a house mate or significant other? Which one of you will be with the dog the most? Is the dog Partner X's but Partner Y is home more so Partner Y is the one that cares for the dog because Partner X is always working late?
 - If this is the case, have you discussed this at length at what the expectations are? Doing so will help resentment in partners and create a healthier routine and structure for the dog.

Meeting The Dog

- Do not expect the dog to immediately show interest in you, family members, or other pets.
- Adult dogs often need time to trust, observe, and decompress.
- Some dogs may be overly excited due to craving attention.
- Set boundaries immediately so certain behavior or actions do not become routine.
- Avoid bending over the dog or being in their face.
- Be patient and allow the dog to approach you, walking towards them can be intimidating. If you want the dog to approach you try walking backwards or with your back to them.
- When petting, start under the chin or along the upper back.
- **When petting - reaching over the head can feel intimidating and may lead to a bite.**
- **Give a dog 6 months to 1 year to fully show their true personality.**
- Adjust rules and expectations once temperament/behavior is understood by handler.
- Puppy behavior: biting/jumping- be careful with small children or elderly with thin skin or those on blood thinners
- Please advise kids to NOT attempt hugging or kissing a dog older than 12 weeks old. This often leads to facial bites.
 - For more dog-child safety measures please refer to my other document.



Things To Consider

- **Are you willing to make changes to your daily routine? Are you willing to adjust to the animal's needs?**
- If you travel:
 - How often do you travel?
 - Do you have family, friends, or a company that can care for your dog?
- If the dog has or develops behavioral issues, are you prepared for that?
- Are you willing to invest not just money, but your time in training?
Training might have to be daily.
- If the dog's energy level is higher than expected, are you willing to adjust your lifestyle?
- Do you have patience for potty training?
- Do you plan on having children soon?
- Major lifestyle changes can impact a dog's routine.
- Dogs are often the first to be neglected or rehomed, to prevent that during major life events, like having a baby, moving, injury to owner, etc.,
 - Do you have support from friends or family who can help?
 - If your dog cannot be trusted around a baby (dogs should never be left alone with children), can you safely separate them in your home?
- Are you prepared for the long term commitment to this dog ranging for up to 15 years?



What To Expect Once You Get Home

- Due to stress and adjustment, regressions are normal to see in the beginning.
- **Common regressions** can alter the following :
 - **Potty training**
 - **Trust**
 - **Reactivity** (if this was an issue before): due to nervousness/stress/change
 - **Eating habits** (often decreased appetite or diarrhea)
- How to Help Regressions
 - Establish structure immediately:
 - Create and follow a daily schedule.
 - Set clear boundaries:
 - Not allowed on the bed, but allowed to sleep in the room.
 - Not allowed on the couch, but allowed in the living room.
 - Not allowed in the kitchen (use tape boundaries or spatial pressure).
 - Retrain and work hard on routines; like potty training schedules.



Strengthen your relationship - building trust

- You provide food, water, shelter, safety, and structure.
- Walking builds trust
 - Dogs learn about you through scent and body language, walking is a less intimidating way for your dog to learn about you.
- Relax together - just be present in their bubble without directly interacting, let them know you respect their space.
- Feeding
 - Train during meals or feed using a bowl, puzzle, mat, or scatter feeding. while you're in their bubble.
 - But remember, if you feed using a bowl, NO FREE FEEDING THOUGH.
- Training
 - Reduces anxiety.
 - Builds confidence.
 - Strengthens the handler-dog bond.
 - Provides mental and physical enrichment.



DO's & DONT'S

DO's

- Make a vet appointment within 24 hours of adoption.
- Take a few days off work, if possible, to establish routine and supervise the dog and its behavior.
- Consider hiring a dog walker during the first week back at work (due to energy levels, stress, and possible potty training regressions).
- Go for walks – excellent low-pressure bonding.
- Ask what food the dog was previously eating and transition slowly.
- Provide durable toys and chews.
- Set up a camera to watch your dog in the crate/house while you're gone to observe behaviors.

DO NOT's

- Do not put your face near the dog's face.
- Do not lie on the floor eye-to-eye or invade their space.
- Avoid prolonged eye contact.
- Do not allow the dog to sleep in your bed right away.
- Snuggling is fine for short, intentional moments.
- Do not leave the dog unattended or allow free roaming early on.
- Do not allow unsupervised interactions with children or other animals.
- Do not go to dog parks.
 - High risk of fights, lawsuits, vet bills, and long-term behavioral trauma.
 - Not all dogs need to be social with every dog.
- Do not bring your dog to public places for at least one week.
- Do not take high-value items away without alternatives.
 - Some dogs resource guard due to past scarcity.
- Do not free-feed. (which means place their bowl down and let them graze throughout the day) Place food down for 15 minutes, then remove the bowl.
 - Structure around meal times supports training and routine.
- Do not speak to your dog through a camera if you're observing them. Very confusing to the dog and can cause anxiety.

Consider The Cost Of...

- Food
- Vaccines
- Rabies tag
- Grooming
- Boarding or pet sitting
- Flea & tick prevention (especially important in Florida)
- Initial supplies
- Should you consider pet insurance or a savings fund for potential future veterinary expenses related to this dog or breed?
- Training
- Will they need daily medicine? Like allergy medicine, probiotics, multivitamin, joint supplements, etc.
- If they need surgery or an emergency, do you have the means to afford care without affecting your ability to pay for basic costs of living?

Supply Checklist

- Supplies Checklist
- Canned pumpkin (for stress-related diarrhea)
- Rice, chicken, and bone broth (for upset stomachs)
- CBD formulated for dogs (for anxiety)
- Crate:
 - Properly sized (not oversized)
 - Large enough to stand, turn, and lie down
 - Use dividers for puppies
 - Avoid wire crates
 - Recommended: plastic “airline” crates
- Food bowl
- Water bowl
- Flat collar or martingale collar
- 3’–6’ leash (no retractable leashes)
- Doggy waste bags / Poop scooper
- Toys (don’t overspend until preferences are known)
- Dog bed or elevated “place” cot
- Training tools to start:
 - Treat pouch (washable silicone)
 - Clicker
 - 15’ long line
- For puppies:
 - Playpen for safe free play

Recommended Chews & Snacks (all with supervision)

- Chews
 - Bully sticks
 - Chicken feet
 - Duck feet
 - Rabbit feet or ears
 - Beef trachea or tendons
 - Lamb ears
 - Bones
 - Buffalo horns
 - Elk antlers
 - Long-lasting but very hard & can crack teeth – supervise closely
- Snacks
 - Whole carrots (raw or frozen)
 - Apples (no core)
 - Sweet potatoes
 - Frozen homemade yogurt & berry treats



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