

DOG ADOPTION GUIDE

Congratulations on adopting a dog from Pasadena Humane. Here are some tips on how to ensure a smooth transition into your home.

Take It Slow

Most dogs require at least a few days to decompress once they are in a new home. On average, it can take your pet three days to begin eating and sleeping normally, three weeks for them to start settling into a new routine, and three months before feeling safe and secure at home. Wait until your new friend has been at home for at least seven days before introducing resident cats or going on any adventures.

First Things First

- **Potty Time:** Before heading inside your home, take your pup to the area where you want him/her to go to the bathroom.
- **Be Patient:** Let them sniff and wait for them to urinate. Reward them with praise and treats for eliminating in the preferred area.

Decompression Time (Week 1)

- **Rest:** Let your dog rest. Resist the urge to go for long walks or meet new friends.
- **Routine is Key:** Meals, play and bedtime should occur at the same time each day.
- **Sniff:** Give your dog plenty of time on leash to sniff outdoor surroundings including the yard or outdoor common area.
- **Go Slow:** Help build your dog's confidence by introducing new things slowly. Refrain from overwhelming your dog. The dog park, pet store, veterinarian and groomer can all wait.

Getting to Know Your New Dog (Weeks 2 & 3)

- **Playtime:** Try different types of toys, games and activities to see what they prefer. Playtime is a great way to establish a bond with your new buddy.
- **Training:** Now is the time to begin training and practicing new tricks. Check our website for training tips and classes.
- **Puzzle Toys:** In order to provide mental stimulation and alleviate stress, consider using puzzle toys or treat dispensers for mealtimes instead of a food bowl.
- **Petting:** Let your dog decide when to approach new people for petting. Respect your dog's decision if they don't want to engage.
- **Body Language:** Watch your dog's body language. Stiff posture, pulling away or a low tail are signs that they are nervous and is a cue for you to take a break from training or move to another environment.

We are always here to help! You can find additional behavior and training resources at pasadenahumane.org/behavior.

Need More Help?

Find additional resources at pasadenahumane.org/behavior.

New Dog Shopping List*

- Dog food
- Food & water bowls
- Leash, collar, & harness
- Toys
- Treats & long-lasting chews
- Poop bags

*All these items can be purchased in our Shelter Shop.



PASADENA HUMANE

361 S. Raymond Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91105
pasadenahumane.org