



Thank you for choosing to adopt your newest family member from Bergen County Protect & Rescue Foundation.

By understanding your new dog's behavior - you can anticipate problems and correct them calmly and as quickly as possible. Be reasonable in your expectations.

We do our best to share information from the best of our knowledge about the dog's evaluations and current eating, sleeping and activity routines so that your pet's transition into your home can be easier. Dogs need order and are routine oriented. It is important that your new dog has some time to adjust to you and your home.

When you arrive home...

Things to expect:

Dogs display anxiety and nervousness by: panting, pacing, "not listening," housebreaking accidents, gastric upset (diarrhea, loose stools) and barking. As long as you understand where these behaviors originate, you can perhaps address them before they appear and deal effectively when they do.

All rescue dogs go through a "honeymoon period." After the first day or so, the dog may be very quiet and extraordinarily controlled and "good." The "real" dog appears two to four weeks later - after having figured out the house rules, the schedule of the days, and the characters of his new family. Remember to be patient with your dog.

Things to Do:

Welcome Home! Your new "best friend" is very excited about joining your family and becoming familiar with their new home. While your dog is leashed spend the first 15-30 minutes walking with your dog outside around the perimeter of your yard or the area that you and your dog will be spending the most time. Walk slowly - let your dog "lead" mostly - and also allow to sniff and pause. Your dog is getting used to the "lay of the land" and all the smells associated with your home. Even in a fenced yard, you'll want to leave your rescue on leash for the first week or so. This way, you can reinforce a recall command and help monitor pack behavior if you have other dogs. Until your new dog bonds to you and makes good eye contact, we recommend leaving your dog on a leash.

PROVIDE QUIET TIME

Quiet time will be important for your new dog in the first week. Because of his nervousness and anxiety, your dog might become worn out fast. Despite your excitement, try and resist inviting friends and relatives over to visit until your dog can adjust to the new environment. Give your dog time to get used to your immediate family.

Feeding Schedule

Your newly adopted dog is currently eating _____, _____ times per day. Ask and encourage the dog to sit before putting the bowl down. Put the food bowl down for 15 minutes. If the dog does not eat, pick up the bowl until the next mealtime. After a couple of days of this routine, your dog will begin eating on schedule. Feeding this way you can monitor exactly how much your dog is eating.

If you have other dogs, feed your rescue dog away from them but at the same time. You can feed in the same room, but use opposite corners, putting the dominant dog's bowl down first. This is usually the resident dog on the first few nights - but that situation may change over time. You may want to arrange having another adult in the room for the first week of feedings to monitor the "pack behavior." Watch that each dog sticks to his own bowl. Keep vigilant over feeding time for a couple of months until the pack positions are worked out.

CRATE YOUR DOG

Every dog needs a place to escape to, a place to call their own, and a crate provides an answer to these needs. Your new dog will have some degree of separation anxiety when first left alone while you are not home. Crating your dog in the beginning will eliminate accidents, chewing destruction, and other mischievous activity that is rooted in nervousness and insecurity. Your dog is safest in the crate when you are not home until you can completely trust your dog loose in the house. This is especially true if you have resident pets because you can't supervise their interactions when you're away or asleep. You shouldn't use the crate for disciplining. The crate is your dog's sanctuary. Crates are great for traveling with your dog later - the dog will always have a familiar den to retreat to and feel comfortable and reassured.

BE PATIENT

There is a good chance that your rescue will show his insecurity by following you everywhere! This will include trying to hang with you in the bathroom, watching TV with you, getting the mail, and undoubtedly wanting to sleep with you. It is not unusual for your dog to whine or cry or bark if confined away from you at night - lights out at a new strange place can be stressful for your dog. If you put the crate close to your bedroom or somewhere so your dog can see you, the problems are usually minimized. Safe chew toys in the crate at night will give your dog something to do if your dog is awake. Remember, during the first couple of weeks, the dog will probably get quite tired and worn out by the day's activities, so establishing a sleep schedule is usually not a big deal. As you wean your dog from the crating at night, make sure your dog has been well exercised - a tired dog is usually a really good dog indoors!

SOCIALIZE

Now you can start inviting your friends and relatives over. Do introductions to new people gradually. Introductions can take the form of petting, playing fetch, even going for a walk. Do not force the dog to accept new people - do it positively, with lots of praise, allowing your dog to approach people rather than new people approaching your dog.



HELPFUL WEBSITES

~Our goal is to make sure rescue dogs never have to be uprooted again, so we are quite interested in helping you with any questions or concerns. Please feel free to contact us by phone or check out our website for helpful information and upcoming events.

www.youolddog.com - Health & Nutrition Guidance

www.petfinder.com -

www.pedigree.com/allthingsdog - Wide range of dog and puppy related information, articles and tools.

www.cesarway.com -Understanding & Correcting Common Dog Problems

www.dogfoodadvisor.com - sign up to receive recall updates on pet foods and treats.

<http://www.aspca.org/Pet-care/poison-control/Plants>

<http://www.aspca.org/Pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-articles/puppy-mouthing>

<http://www.aspca.org/Pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-articles/canine-body-language>

<http://www.aspca.org/Pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-articles/introducing-your-dog-to-a-new-dog>

<http://www.aspca.org/Pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/cat-articles/introducing-your-cat-to-a-new-dog>

<http://www.aspca.org/Home/Pet-care/spayneuter>

***PLEASE REMEMBER TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AND SEND US A FAMILY PHOTO FOR OUR HAPPY TAILS ALBUM!**

What To Do If Your Pet Is Poisoned

Rapid response is important, but panicking can interfere with the process of helping your pet.

Take 30 to 60 seconds to safely collect and have at hand any material involved. This may be of great benefit to your vet and/or APCC toxicologists, as they determine what poison or poisons are involved. In the event that you need to take your pet to a local veterinarian, be sure to take the product's container with you. Also, collect in a sealable plastic bag any material your pet may have vomited or chewed.

If you witness your pet consuming material that you suspect might be toxic, do not hesitate to seek emergency assistance, even if you do not notice any adverse effects. Sometimes, even if poisoned, an animal may appear normal for several hours or for days after the incident.



Call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center

The telephone number is (888) 426-4435. There is a \$65 consultation fee for this service.

Be ready with the following information:

- The species, breed, age, sex, weight and number of animals involved.
- The animal's symptoms, information regarding the exposure, including the agent (if known), the amount of the agent involved and the time elapsed since the time of exposure.
- Have the product container/packaging available for reference.

Please note: If your animal is having seizures, losing consciousness, is unconscious or is having difficulty breathing, telephone ahead and bring your pet immediately to your local veterinarian or emergency veterinary clinic. If necessary, he or she may call the APCC.

Be Prepared

Keep the telephone number of the **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center—(888) 426-4435**—as well as that of your local veterinarian in a easily accessible location such as refrigerator door or phone book.