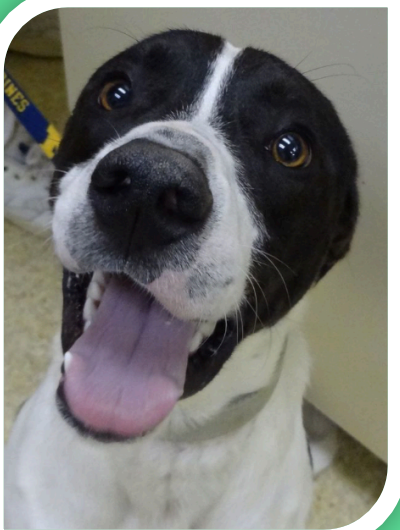


**YOU ADOPTED ME!
NOW WHAT CAN
YOU EXPECT...**



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**Thank you for adopting!
You have saved a dog's life today!**

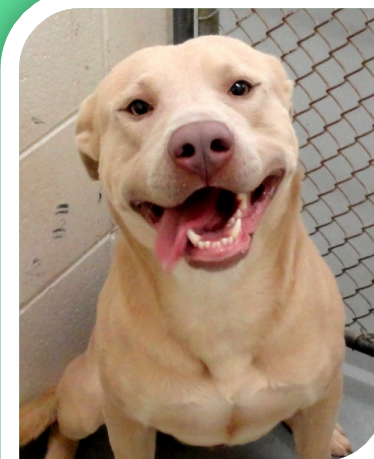
With a little information, it's easy to help your new dog to settle in at your home! In another life, some of the behaviors you could be about to see, may have been encouraged or maybe just not discouraged. Don't worry! He'll catch on. He'll get past it all. And with you as the 'leader' in his new 'pack', he'll become **your** best dog. Remember, even shelter dogs 'live in the moment' and adjust very well to **your** routines! Give your new pet a new life! Just like she has done, move forward from the past to give her a new future!

What you might observe while your new dog adjusts:

- Shyness, hiding, seems timid
- Excessive or unexplained barking
- Excessive pacing, won't settle
- Backsliding on house-training
- Possessiveness (people/things)
- Leash pulling, over excited
- Avoidance or nervousness around strangers

Be patient with both your new dog, and yourself! Things may proceed slowly; you'll hit frustrating learning plateaus. But if you're committed, you'll get there. Remember also, that the basic period of adjustment can be anywhere from six to twelve weeks.

The transformation you give this dog, will knock your socks off!



By now, you have set up your home to welcome your new dog! You have decided on a safe space for your dog to eat, sleep and hang out. You may have set up a crate, to give him a 'safe place' and/or to help limit him getting into trouble while he settles in and earns your trust.

We will have told you *what* your dog is eating, and *when*. You can follow that routine for the first few days to avoid any upset tummies or bowels.

As soon as you arrive home, take your new pet to his outdoor toileting area. Let him explore and get to know his new space. Be prepared with cleaning supplies for accidents indoors – new smells and surroundings can cause 'stress' accidents sometimes! **Introduce your new shelter dog to family and/or other dogs, while outside.** Give everyone time to settle over the excitement and then take the new shelter dog inside first. This avoids existing pets 'feeling' like they have to defend their space. Taking your new dog in 1st, tells other pets that you are saying 'This dog belongs here.' Give him plenty of time & space, and let him smell everything.

If you are crate training, leave the door of the crate open and let him explore on his own first. A 'treat' placed inside his crate can give him a great reason to go inside to explore! Crates often provide a shelter dog with a safe, quiet 'cave' while he adjusts. Crates are a great idea and are far

better than letting your new dog get into trouble that may just end with him coming back to the shelter. Crates provide boundaries and are an excellent tool to use while 'settling in'.

From there, start your own schedule of feeding, toileting, training, play & exercise and sleep. From Day One, your dog will need family time and brief periods of solitary confinement. Don't give in and comfort him if he whines when left alone. Limit 'baby-talk' as it can reinforce bad behaviors. Instead, give him attention for good behavior, such as chewing on a toy or resting quietly. For the first few days, keep things quiet around your dog and limit excitement. This will help your dog to settle in and get to know you & your household routines. Your dog may be a bit uneasy at first as he gets to know you. Be patient and understanding while also keeping to the schedule for feeding, walks, play and sleep. This schedule will show your dog what is expected of him.

Insist on basic manners:

1. waiting to eat when food is put down or to take a toy or treat from you
 2. waiting to go out the door, after you
 3. walking beside you, not pulling
 4. limiting access to couches/beds until you have established leadership & rules
 5. insisting that he lie down & stay, if he seems to be nervously pacing.
- When you give him a space and tell him to stay, you are saying, 'Lie down

& relax, there is nothing to worry about." You will see him relax & take a deep breath when realizes YOU have everything under control. He can indeed just settle.

Dogs thrive with routines – it's what they need from their 'pack leader'! Routines and 'rules' avoid problems where your dog starts to take control and dictate how things will be, with growls, dominance or chaotic behaviors.

Socialization with other dogs and people is vital to your dog's good behavior. Take your dog to group training classes or the local dog park. Pay close attention to your dog's body language to be sure he's having a good time. Talk to your trainer about any problems you may observe, so you can help your dog overcome those problems and be a sociable, stable dog. Select a trainer who uses positive-reinforcement techniques to help you and your dog overcome these behavior obstacles.

To have a long and happy life together with your dog, stick to the original schedule you created, ensuring your dog always has the food, potty time, training and exercise he needs.

You'll be bonded in no time!

<https://www.petfinder.com>, <https://www.thesprucepets.com>



Together, we might be able to help your dog to settle in with you!

