



**OPERATION
KINDNESS**

Bringing Home Your New Dog

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The first few weeks in your home are special and critical for your newly adopted dog or puppy but they are likely to be unclear on what to expect from you. During this time it is important to set up clear, consistent rules and patterns for your dog.

1. Potty training

Even if your dog may have had some experience with potty training in a previous home, you will want to take some time to reintroduce or retrain your dog about potty habits in your home. For more information about potty training look at our [Crate Training and Potty Training](#) handout.

2. Crate training

We recommend providing a crate for your new dog. Every dog can benefit from learning how to relax in a confined area such as a crate. Using a crate when you are not able to be with your dog or watch your dog can decrease the chance of any destructive accidents. If you aren't going to crate your dog, you should consider a dog safe area to keep the dog in when you are away from home.

3. Dog safe area

Essentially, this is a dog-proofed room, free from anything the dog may be tempted to tear up or have accidents on. The room should have a hard floor, no carpets, rugs, or other absorbent surfaces. When your dog is kept in this area you may want to play calming music, and provide some chew toys to keep your dog occupied.

4. Watch your dog closely

While exploring their new home your dog may want to try new things out such as jumping up on furniture, eliminating indoors, taste-testing your house plants or other things you may want to redirect him from. By keeping a close eye on your dog, always making sure they are in the same room with you at first, you can easily and quickly redirect them to something more appropriate if you see them doing something you disapprove of.

5. Consider training classes

Obedience classes are not only good for teaching your dog obedience, they are also a great bonding experience for you and your dog. You will also get to do some safe socializing where your dog will get to be around lots of people and other dogs all while learning to stay focused on you.

For behavior and training advice, please contact Operation Kindness at behavior@operationkindness.org or visit www.operationkindness.org/training.