



Caring for those no one else will...

THE FIRST DAY HOME

The new addition to your family has undergone stress with each new change in his/her environment. Your pet will require a few days to settle in, but some simple tips will make transition easier.

- ♥ Some pets will drool after a car ride. Allow the pet to calm down once you have reached home. Activity should be a minimum until he has settled in.
- ♥ Provide access to fresh water but do not feed the pet for the first four hours.
- ♥ Be prepared, any change in food will cause a gastric upset. Avoid milk, table scraps and canned food - they may cause diarrhea too.
- ♥ To help your new dog develop a sense of security, set up a routine and try to keep changes to a minimum while the dog adjusts.
- ♥ Establish your house-training routine as soon as possible - *i.e.*, introduce your dog to its new crate and the yard.
- ♥ Introduce other household pets slowly. Dogs should be leashed and allowed to sniff each other under your control. Cats will hiss but usually keep their distance. For further information on introducing your new dog to the resident cat or dog, consult our handout "*Introducing A New Dog to a Resident Pet.*"
- ♥ Be encouraging and supportive while your new dog/puppy makes the transition to his new home, and develops a relationship with you and other household members.
- ♥ Read to your dog's Health Record noting the dates that vaccinations are due. Mark them on your calendar to ensure your puppy or dog remains healthy throughout his/her life with you.
- ♥ Take a picture of your new dog/puppy and put it with his/her papers. In the unfortunate event he/she should become lost, you will have ready access to it to create flyers. Make sure the photo truly depicts what he/she looks like standing – a picture of your pet on its back will not help people identify him/her. Update a puppy's photo regularly during its growth cycle – a photo of an 8-week old puppy will not help in the identification of a full-grown dog!
- ♥ Please remember the Rule of 3s – It take a dog 3 days to learn his new space, 3 weeks to learn the new routine, and 3 months to be comfortable and bond. But if you are patient, you will have a best friend for life!
- ♥ Most of all, love and enjoy the new addition to your family!