

How to help a newly adopted pet Adjust in your home?

We know this step can seem to be overwhelming for new pet-parents. Don't worry, as promised, we are here to help you at every step of the process. Here are some tips to make sure that your pet transitions into settling into your home with ease and comfort:

1) **Patience is the key:** Helping a pet adjust in a new home can be a long and sometimes exhausting process and may take more than a couple of weeks. Remember, the pet may have gone through a number of living situations, traumas, past incidences of abuse, neglect or pain. The least we can offer them in this new living situation is our wholehearted acceptance and patience so that they get a chance to open up and be comfortable around us.

2) **Decide a suitable time:** Make sure that you decide to bring your new pet home when you can spare enough time to devote to them. It is not advisable to bring them home when you already have work, family or travel commitments.

3) **Ensure all preparations:** Before bringing the pet home, you should ensure that all the supplies that they may need in your house have already been arranged. You may need a crate, bowls for water and food, leash and collar, training pads, a first-aid kit and so on. You may also need to pet-proof your house. This includes keeping all chemical cleaners and supplies on a higher shelf, removing plants from the pet's reach, ensuring that your valuables, important papers, remote controls, in other words, all the things that may be destroyed by chewing are removed from the pet's reach.

4) **Take it slow:** Introduce your family members or existing pets to the new pet one person or pet at a time. Let them sniff the family members one by one. Introducing your whole family at a time may be overwhelming for the pet. It goes the same for your house too. Give the pet time to get to know your whole house. Take them out on the yard/lawns where you want them to relieve themselves and make sure that you wait long enough to let the pet know that this is the area they can come to relieve themselves.

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5) **Try to follow a fixed routine:** Walks, feeding, playing, socializing, all the things that your new pet may be doing with you should be done at fixed timings and at regular intervals. This will make your and the pet's life easier because most animals naturally like to follow a routine and you may make use of this trait to fix times for things that need to be done with the pet.

6) **Crate is your friend:** For a new pet, a crate is an important part of making him accustomed to the new environment. A crate is a safe space for the pet who may be feeling intimidated by the new people, sounds, smells and the triggers in a new house. A crate may also act as a time out for you when you need a little rest while training the pet. Crate training may also be much helpful in helping the pet get housebroken.

7) **Engage your pet:** A rescued pet may have a lot of pent-up energy when he moves into a house from the shelter or the streets. Ensure that his energy finds a positive outlet. Offer chewing toys, reward them when they play with them, give ample opportunities to play, run and walk so that the pet does not have any excess energy that may cause him to react hyper-energetically when you are not prepared for it.

8) **Begin pee-poo training right away:** Do not wait for the pet to get used to your house and your family and get comfortable before you begin to housetrain them. Take them out at regular intervals so they have enough chances to relieve themselves so that any unpleasant accidents around the house may be avoided.

9) **Use Positive reinforcement for training:** Hire a trainer who believes in positive reinforcement rather than punishments. If you are planning to train your pet yourself, ensure that you use rewards at good behavior rather than punishments for bad behavior. A pet is like a child and your behavior towards them should always be considerate and kind. Research has proved that punishment as a training tool works adversely in the long run anyway.

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10) **Keep in touch with a veterinarian:** Always make sure that you have a veterinarian to guide you and address the problems your new pet may face after their adoption. Keep your vet visits regular and follow the vaccination routine strictly. This may prove to be highly useful as precautionary visits may help avoid unnecessary vet visits and expenses, as well as unnecessary suffering to the pet that may entail after contracting an avoidable infection or illness. Make an arrangement with your pet that for minor issues, they are available via text or call so that any unnecessary vet visits may be avoided.

11) **Do not change the food suddenly:** Ask the shelter or the adoption agency what kind of food your pet was having before coming to you. Also ask about the frequency and quantity of the food. Try to follow similar quality, quantity and frequency for a couple of weeks. This will keep one of the most important factors in the pet's life constant and will help him settle down easily.

12) **Be prepared for surprises:** Despite taking all the above steps and precautions, sometimes, a pet may still end up being the center of an unpleasant or embarrassing situation. Be prepared for it and face such situations with patience, acceptance and understanding. Sometimes, no matter what you do, the pet may get overwhelmed in their new environment and may not be able to communicate an emergency.

Conclusion: Once you get past these initial obstacles, your time with your newly adopted pet will surely be a blissful experience with so many moments of joy that these initial hiccups will almost seem a thing of the past! So, make sure you take your time in welcoming these bundles of happiness into your life and have an amazing time with them!

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