

**Friends of the Burlington County Animal Shelter
Dog Adoption Information**



Congratulations on adopting your new dog and becoming a part of the Burlington County Animal Shelter family!

We've put together some information we hope you will find helpful as you're raising and training your new family member.

Below are some dos and don'ts to follow for your first few days with your new pet.

Please remember that your new dog is unfamiliar with you, your surroundings and his or her place in your home. We hope these suggestions will make the transition as easy as possible on you and your pet!

Getting Your New Pet Settled

Bringing a new dog home is a very exciting time! But please try to remember that your new dog is unfamiliar with you and his or her surroundings. Your pet needs quiet time to make the adjustment from shelter life to home life. Although it's tempting, now is not the time to throw a big party to celebrate. Give your dog a few days to settle in.

DO:

- Give your dog a quiet place to spend some alone time getting to know his or her new surroundings.
- Try introducing your dog into your home by getting him or her comfortable with one room at time.
- If you have a fenced yard, let your dog explore while on a leash with you.
- If you're using a crate or have a special sleeping area for your pet, place some blankets or towels with your scent on them in the crate. This will help create a bond with your new dog.
- Put your new dog on a schedule for eating and exercise. Dogs need a routine, just as children do.
- If you're not an experienced dog handler, we recommend basic obedience training with a professional trainer. Your dog will be with you for many years to come and everyone wants a well-behaved pet!

DON'T:

- Immediately give your new dog run of the entire house. He or she needs restrictions and time to adjust.
- Invite over too many guests until your new dog has adjusted and is comfortable and confident.
- Have any other animals visit your home until your dog is adjusted.

Getting Your New Pet Settled After Spay/Neuter

Spaying and neutering is surgery. Your dog has been under anesthesia and will be not be him or herself for a few days. Your dog is likely in mild to moderate discomfort and probably some level of pain.

DO:

- Give your dog a quiet, soft place to lie down and recover. He or she will need lots of rest and quiet.
- Keep an eye on your dog's behavior. It's rare, but some dogs can develop complications after surgery. If you are unsure, seek professional veterinary assistance immediately.

DON'T:

- Allow children to play near your new dog while he is she is recovering.
- Bathe your new dog for at least five days after surgery.
- Allow your dog to run or jump. Quiet leash walks to use the bathroom are best for your pet.
- Allow your pet to excessively lick the incision site. If this occurs, get a cone collar for your dog. He or she may look a little funny, but this will prevent infection and complications.

Introducing Your New Dog to Your Children

Your children will be extremely excited because they have a new pet! Please remember that your dog has adjusted to shelter life, which does not include children. Slowly introducing your children to your new pet will be best for your entire family.

DO:

- Give your dog a short period of adjustment time, then allow your children "visiting time" with their new pet.
- Encourage children to be quiet and gentle with the dog.
- Have your children give your new dog treats and pour the dog's food is a great way to encourage bonding.
- Encourage your children to participate in whatever training program you have chosen for your dog.

DON'T:

- Allow children unsupervised time with the dog right away. You should always be in the room to teach your children the proper way to interact with your new pet.
- Allow your children to have friends over to see the dog until after the dog's adjustment period.

Introducing Your New Dog to Your Other Dogs

Please remember that your new dog is unsure of his or her place in your pack. Although you have had a dog meet at our shelter, bringing your new dog into your existing dog's territory may pose new challenges.

DO:

- Introduce your dogs slowly and always with supervision.
- Keep both dogs on a soft leash at all times. If there's a problem, you can easily grab a leash, but you may not be able to reach a collar.
- Feed your dogs in separate areas in separate bowls.
- Give any toys or treats separately to the dogs so there are no jealousy issues.

DON'T:

- Allow the dogs any unsupervised time together until an adjustment period has passed.
- Allow your dogs to sleep in the same place or share bowls.
- Leave any toys or treats laying around – this avoids scuffles.

Introducing Your New Dog to Your Cats

Many cats and dogs live happy lives together. Your new dog has already been cat-tested at the shelter. However, both your cat and your new dog will likely need a period of adjustment.

DO:

- Have your new dog on a leash when you introduce him/her to your cat.
- Allow them to sniff and check each other out but pull your dog back if your cat becomes frightened.

DON'T:

- Give your dog full run of your home. Keep him/her in a designated area so your cat knows where your dog is at all times.
- Allow your dog to chase your cat.

Please remember that while your pet is gone from the shelter, he or she is not gone from our hearts! If you have any questions, please e-mail us at fobcas@yahoo.com.

We wish you many, many years of health and happiness with your new pet!