



## **Bringing your new dog home**

**It is ESSENTIAL you transport your dog home safely and securely. It is now against the law for your dog to travel without being secured in your vehicle – we recommend using a special dog seat belt and/or harness, or of course a crate.**

Please do not underestimate the confusion and stress a dog feels when they are taken to a new home, with new people. A dog may seem to be taking it all in their stride, but not every dog will whine or bark to show stress. Some will be quiet and subdued. This doesn't mean they will get spooked any less. There are others who may be excited and can't wait to get out of the car. When you arrive at home, and are ready to take your dog out of the car, please be extremely careful and do not take anything for granted. There has been a frightening rise in escaped dogs, a lot of the time within the first 48 hours of being in their new home - some have not even made it into the house. It only takes a split second for a dog to bolt.

Once home it is naturally a very exciting time and so tempting to want to shower your hound with affection and reassurance. Please for your dog's sake, try and refrain.

It is inevitable the dog will find it very confusing in a new home, with new smells, new people, new dynamics and routines. It is only natural for them and indeed any new dog to feel sad, worried, scared, insecure, lost. Remember this will ease and they just need time to get their heads round it all. When you bring your hound home, it is vital they are just given time to decompress. Decompression is crucial in helping your dog settle in and it should be your priority.

<https://www.the-dog-school.com/post/decompression-in-dog-training-and-rescue>

They need a comfy area, somewhere quiet and some space. They need to rest. Please do just try and leave them be. They may follow you about, or they may do the opposite and want to hide. Each dog will react differently. So atop tip is to remove all your expectations and just take each moment as it comes. Have the dog's bed/crate already set up for when you get them home, so they can settle there immediately, and know it's their safe place.

The first thing to do when you get them home is take them into the garden and let them have a really good sniff and relieve themselves. Don't worry if they don't go to the toilet. Try again later. With nervous dogs, we ask you to keep a harness on them and use a long line to begin with until they are feeling more settled.

Please don't overload them by taking them to new places, training classes and meeting people and other dogs. Just let them get used to their new home and people. There is all the time in the world to have new adventures with them, a new home is an adventure in itself. It's

best to minimise visitors for the first week or so as well. It's tempting to want to show off your new dog, but they already have a lot to deal with.

Walk them in quiet places to begin with so you can get to know each other without distractions and again keep it nice and calm, keeping stress to the absolute minimum. Talking to your new dog helps them get used to your voice and can help to build your bond quicker. Giving them a routine will help as will having places that become familiar to your dog. Give them natural chews or kongs to help alleviate some anxiety and let them sleep. Rest is great for dogs and essential for any new dog, in order for stress levels to reduce and for their systems to rebalance.

Your dog may well show signs of stress, which may manifest as pacing, panting, whining/barking/howling, restlessness, hyperactivity, toileting issues (loose stools/constipation). Noises will probably startle them. Nearly all our dogs, in a new home, will have accidents in the house, even if they have been clean in their foster homes. Please do not be angry at them. Just clear it up. They are not doing it to be naughty. They are doing it because they are stressed or anxious. Take a look at the Toilet Training section for tips.

Some very important things to remember!

### **In a multi-dog household**

1. Do not expect instant bonding. These dogs have only just met and need time to suss each other out and adjust. Dynamics will change. Expect spats - growling, snapping and lunging. It is natural for there to be disputes between dogs when they are suddenly living together. The new dog will be overwhelmed and insecure, and resident dogs will also feel insecure. Disputes generally look and sound far worse than they are. **If tensions are escalating or either dog is injured in a dispute, please separate, give them time to calm down and get in touch.**
2. Please put all toys away before bringing your new dog home. Introduce them once they are a bit more settled with each other and supervise.
3. Feed separately to begin with and determine if there are any signs of food guarding. It is quite natural for dogs to protect their food, particularly between dogs who do not know each other properly.

In a household with children

1. Your children are going to be very excited at having their new dog home. It's crucial that you explain to them that they need to give the dog space.
2. Ensure your kids understand that the dog's bed/crate is their space, and they mustn't encroach on that.
3. Explain to the kids that they mustn't approach the dog when eating. Also do not try to take treats/toys from the dog.

## Snowy a training case study

Below is an example taken from one of our dogs who was a foster and then subsequently adopted. Snowy had lived as an outside dog with little family interaction. Below are some of the examples of work required on her training journey

Issue	Training tip Guide	Summary
Food Possession	<a href="https://www.rspcapetinsurance.org.au/pet-care/training-your-pet/training-food-possessive-dog">https://www.rspcapetinsurance.org.au/pet-care/training-your-pet/training-food-possessive-dog</a>	<p>Don't feed at the same time as your meal time.</p> <p>Feed small amounts from your hand progressing to the bowl</p> <p>Ask to sit before a treat or meal</p> <p>Snowy has a Kong and she enjoys having some of her food in this each day. It can be filled with both her regular dry food and a few extra treats including cheese, ham or chicken. Get Snowy to sit while you fill the Kong and then drop it on the floor near her.</p>
Reluctance to wear a harness	Similar to the section 'desensitisation and counterconditioning' in the link above	<p>Wearing a harness was not something Snowy had experienced before. She was initially reluctant to have the straps done up. This has been gradually worked through by association with treats. Use small treats so that it is just really a taste (I use salmon Burgess Cat food)</p> <p><a href="https://www.thepetshoppostie.co.uk/burgess-adult-cat-rich-in-scottish-salmon-15kg?msclkid=30d28b3adc2a168383bfeb98f36439b7">https://www.thepetshoppostie.co.uk/burgess-adult-cat-rich-in-scottish-salmon-15kg?msclkid=30d28b3adc2a168383bfeb98f36439b7</a></p>

<p>Pulling on lead</p>		<p>Wear a harness and a lead for added security</p> <p>If pulling or lunging due to seeing another dog, then pause and get Snowy to sit and reward her with a treat for being calm around the other dog.</p> <p>Until she is settled in avoid walking her in busy areas like the Memorial Park at peak times</p>
<p>Possession of a ball or a toy</p>	<p><a href="https://woodgreen.org.uk/pet-advice/article/dogs-toy-possession">https://woodgreen.org.uk/pet-advice/article/dogs-toy-possession</a></p>	<p>Ask Snowy to sit and do 'Paw' reward her with a treat. Only pick up the toy once she is distracted with eating the treat. This way she accepts and acknowledges that there is a treat reward and it becomes part of a 'fetch' type game</p>
<p>Growling during Grooming</p>	<p><a href="https://woodgreen.org.uk/pet-advice/article/how-to-groom-your-dog">https://woodgreen.org.uk/pet-advice/article/how-to-groom-your-dog</a></p>	<p>Snowy was not used to being groomed. She is now fairly comfortable with it. Build up gradually. Snowy will 'sit' on a return from a walk and is happy to have each muddy paw dried in exchange for a treat. She will happily eat these from your hand, one at a time in exchange for each paw being dried.</p> <p>Grooming Snowy with a brush has been built up with a soft brush from 2 mins to 10 minutes. Snowy is now comfortable with being groomed. Just remember to keep praising her with treats and lots of 'Good Girls'</p>
<p>Disturbing while sleeping</p>		<p>Don't! Remember the phrase let sleeping dogs lie.</p> <p>Snowy would growl if you tried to move her while sleeping from say a sofa. If you do need to wake her for a walk or for someone to sit on the sofa then have a treat in your</p>

		hand and call her to you, get her to sit and reward her with a treat and a 'good girl'.
Growling if collar is pulled		Snowy hates having her collar pulled. When she first came to us I kept a short lead on her in the house. This is because at times she would go into the kitchen and 'counter surf' or jump up to get food. Using the lead rather than touching or pulling her collar causes less tension for both of you. Now Snowy will respond with a 'Down' command and a distraction
Hotspots of tension in the home to avoid		<p>Dishwashers – avoid loading a dishwasher with Snowy in the room. Snowy will be attracted to any dishes which smell of meat and will try and put her head in the dishwasher.</p> <p>Bins- Snowy will be drawn to a kitchen bin if there is any way of opening it and will try and remove an item of food wrapping which will become a 'prized possession' – see notes on food possession above</p> <p>Compost bins – same with compost bins. Snowy loves egg shells and will try and remove these and eat them. If you have one of the council black caddies then just ensure the lid is firmly closed</p> <p>Food / dishes on the side as above, Snowy will try and counter surf so ensure if she is in the kitchen that dishes are way and there is no food within reach on the side. She will even retrieve items such as spongies from the sink if left unattended in the kitchen</p>

Adolescence	<p><a href="https://woodgreen.org.uk/pet-advice/article/how-to-deal-with-your-adolescent-dog">https://woodgreen.org.uk/pet-advice/article/how-to-deal-with-your-adolescent-dog</a></p>	<p>Snowy is coming to the end of adolescence, however she still displays a lot of adolescent behaviour which includes the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· <b>Jumping up on meeting people</b></li><li>· <b>Overexcited on meeting other dogs</b></li><li>· <b>Pulling on the lead</b></li></ul> <p>The guide on the left is helpful, also as Snowy will be spayed soon and will turn 3 in September most of this behaviour will hopefully disappear with time. All of the above are very workable at group training classes. I used the Kennel Club Good Citizen scheme for my own dog, Benji and we completed the Puppy Foundation to the Silver award which enabled him to become a Pets as Therapy Dog in his middle years. This is a link</p> <p><a href="https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/dog-training/good-citizen-dog-scheme/">https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/dog-training/good-citizen-dog-scheme/</a></p> <p>There are quite a few clubs and trainers in and around Coventry (see examples below);</p> <p>Coventry Dog Training Club <a href="http://coventrydtc.weebly.com/training-venues.html">http://coventrydtc.weebly.com/training-venues.html</a> (also on facebook facebook.com/coventrydtc</p> <p><a href="http://www.deltaonecanines.co.uk/">http://www.deltaonecanines.co.uk/</a></p>
-------------	--	--

**Other useful links**

Talking dogs with Graeme Hall (Apple podcast)

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/talking-dogs-with-graeme-hall/id1523065355>

(He is also on Channel 4 and 4 on Demand as “Dogs behaving Badly”)

BBC Sounds Podcast – search ‘Dog training’ there is lots on there