



generosity breeds joy.

## Bringing Your New Dog Home

When you adopt a dog, it is important to set everyone up for success – your family, your pets and your new dog! Remember to go slowly and allow everyone time to adjust. Your adopted dog may need time to transition from shelter life to home life – we call it “decompressing.” Other family members and pets in the home may also need time to adjust. Patience is key!

**Giving your new dog a shutdown period** allows them to catch up on sleep, bond with their new family, and get to know their environment and schedules. If possible, try to limit visitors and outings during this adjustment time. If you do have visitors over, remember to give your new dog a break before becoming overwhelmed.

**Keep your schedule as consistent as possible** to give your new dog structure and security. Scheduled meal times will help with house-training and monitoring your dog’s weight and health. The more structure and consistency you can provide your dog, the more confident he will feel in his new world. The more frequently we reward behaviors that we want, the more often our dogs will offer those behaviors.

**Limiting your dog’s access to his new home** prevents his world from quickly becoming large and overwhelming. Baby gates and crates are a great way to ease a dog into a new environment and can help with house-training. Even house-trained dogs will need time to adapt to new schedules. As your new dog adjusts, you can begin to give them more freedom. For additional information on crate and house-training, [visit our behavior library online](#).

**If you have other pets at home**, remember to give them time to bond and adjust to each other as well. Whether initial meetings occurred at the shelter or at home, you will want to set each dog up for success when bringing them home. You can use baby gates or crates to give breaks when needed. Remember, it may take your dog some time to realize that this new dog is not just a playmate, but also a roommate. Feeding separately and keeping toys and bones separate can help prevent any disagreements while your dogs get to know one another.

Check out [our online behavior library](#) for more info on dog-to-dog or dog-to-cat introductions.

If you need assistance, reach out to our behavior team at 904.493.4586 or [behavior@jaxhumane.org](mailto:behavior@jaxhumane.org).