



## **Bringing Home Your New Dog**

Congratulations on adopting your new best friend! Transition from a shelter to a new home can be stressful for your new canine pal. Here are some tips to help you both!

### ***TIPS FOR SUCCESS!***

- **Get home and outside!** We recommend taking your dog straight home post-adoption. Once home, plan on spending plenty of time outdoors- this gives your new pal an opportunity to check out the new surroundings, exercise and go to the bathroom in the appropriate area.
- **Introduce slowly!** Give your new companion plenty of time and space to get acquainted. Introduce new people or animals at a pace that is comfortable for your pet! Some pets are outgoing & adjust quickly; others need more time. Watch your pet for signs of stress, and give space if you notice nervousness, trying to hide or cower, shaking/trembling or growling- these are signs that you're going too fast! Avoid parties, road trips & other stressful situations at first.
- **Keep on a leash!** Until you are certain your dog will come when called, be sure to keep safely leashed or in a securely fenced area, and monitor at all times.
- **Have a plan!** Know ahead of time where you'll keep your new buddy when you're away from home. You'll want a space that is safe & secure, without a lot of things for him/her to get into! Left alone, many pets can become bored & destructive. Proper exercise & special toys such as Kongs will help keep your pet occupied & calm while you're away.
- **Be consistent & patient!** Your new companion will need to learn the rules of his/her new home- it doesn't happen instantly! Your new dog's previous experiences may have been very different and it will take time to learn new rules and expectations. Reward good behavior with treats, toys & affection!



### ***DON'T PANIC!***

- **Expect the unexpected!** This is a time of transition, and these changes can lead to unwanted or unexpected behaviors. It may take a few weeks for your new pet to really settle in & learn the new routine. Be patient & give it some time! We're here to help if you need guidance or tips along the way.

