



What to expect after you adopt a Mutt

Congratulations on adopting from Muttville Senior Dog Rescue! Please follow these steps to ensure a long and happy relationship between you and your new mutt:

- The first few days in your home are special and critical for a pet. Your new dog will be confused about where he is and what to expect from you. Setting up some clear structure with your family for your dog will be paramount in making as smooth a transition as possible.
- If you wish to switch to a different brand of dog food, do so over a period of about a week by adding one part new food to three parts of the old for several days; then switch to half new food, half old; and then one part old to three parts new.
- Once home, take him to his toileting area immediately and spend a good amount of time with him so he will get used to the area and relieve himself. Even if your dog does relieve himself during this time, be prepared for accidents. Coming into a new home with new people, new smells and new sounds can throw even the most housebroken dog off-track.
- From there, start your schedule of feeding, toileting and play/exercise. From day one, your dog will need family time and brief periods of alone-time. Don't give in and comfort him if he whines when left alone. Instead, give him attention for good behavior, such as chewing on a toy or resting quietly.
- For the first few days, remain calm and quiet around your dog, limiting too much excitement (such as the dog park or neighborhood children). Not only will this allow your dog to settle in easier, it will give you more one-on-one time to get to know him and his likes/dislikes.
- Your dog may be a bit uneasy at first as he gets to know you. Be patient and understanding while also keeping to the schedule you intend to maintain for feeding, walks, etc. This schedule will show your dog what is expected of him as well as what he can expect from you. You will be bonding in no time!
- If you encounter behavior issues you are unfamiliar with, please contact Muttville for assistance!