

Be patient, understanding, and consistent to help your new dog become part of the family!

Moving Day - The stress of moving to a new home can make dogs behave as if they've never lived in a house before (and some dogs haven't). Even if your dog seems to be unhousetrained, unruly, and unmannered, don't mistake these behaviors as normal for your dog. It will take your dog at least two weeks (but maybe a few months) to adjust to a new house, new family, and new life.

When you get home -- Before letting your new dog in the house, walk her to the area you want her to use to relieve herself. Encourage her to sniff the ground and she will probably soon need to "go." Praise her when she does and offer her a small food treat or other reward. Allow enough time for her to go a few times. (For males, allow enough time for them to "mark" outside - so they won't have anything left to mark with inside.)



Now you can take your dog in the house, knowing that if she needs to go to the bathroom again, she might try to reach the area outside where she went earlier. Watch for telltale signs like pacing, circling, whining, or standing by the door - these can signal her need to go out.

If you allow your dog inside immediately upon arriving home she might need desperately to relieve herself and do so on the floor. Then she might see that spot as her toilet area and continue to use that instead of a post in your yard. Starting off on the right paw is the key to success in housetraining any dog.

Meeting the family - Allow your new dog to approach people at her own pace, rather than allowing new people to approach her. This will give her the opportunity to build up her confidence and trust in people.

Give each new person a toy or dog treat and ask them to encourage your dog to approach them. Do this with one person at a time, until your dog has initially met everyone in the family. The more pleasant encounters your dog has, the better she will settle into your household.

If you allow people (children included) to force attention on your dog, she might feel very intimidated and fearful with no way of escaping the interaction. If your dog ever appears hesitant or afraid of approaching a person or animal, don't force her. Simply give her a "way out" and have that person ignore her. She will eventually make friends when she is more confident.

Even if it's the holiday season, the first week with your new dog is not a good time to have lots of company over or to take her to a family reunion or community barbecue.

Its culture shock - It's likely that your new dog will have a few undesirable behaviors you'll want to change, but try to think about it from her perspective. Imagine being snatched from home and taken to a foreign country where no one speaks your language. You can't even recognize any words or gestures. You can only communicate by trial and error. It's culture shock.

This is what your new dog is experiencing. Even if she was completely trained in a previous home, everything she sees, hears, and smells is different now. Put yourself in her place. Be patient, supportive,



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and consistent to help her learn what is expected in this foreign place. Consider attending a training class at MHS' The Training Center.

Be prepared and be patient - You will probably see adjustment behaviors when you bring your new dog home. They might come from your other pets as well as your new dog.

Negative acts like marking ("this is mine"), chewing ("I don't know what's happening around here and it makes me nervous"), barking ("let's play"), growling ("I'm warning you"), and biting or snapping ("cut it out") are dog communications and normal reactions to stress. Advance preparation, constant supervision, and a big dose of patience is your best course of action.

Even though they are normal and understandable dog behaviors, if your dog is growling, snapping, or biting, call MHS immediately for advice. ***Never*** take a chance when a dog begins growling or snapping - it's not worth it!

