

Be Patient!

Your new dog is experiencing many changes all at once and we cannot be certain how your new pet was treated before it arrived at our shelter. To set your new dog and your family up for success, you must **slowly** help him/her acclimate to his/her new surroundings. A scared dog's options are "fight or flight". Wait and allow your new dog to interact with you and your family when s/he is ready. We recommend that you spend at least two weeks focusing strictly on getting your new dog familiar with your house, your family, and his/her position in his/her new "pack".

Avoid Overwhelming Situations

For at least two weeks DO NOT:

- ▶ Try to integrate your new dog with existing household pets (see *Bringing a New Dog Home to Live With an Existing Dog* brochure)
- ▶ Take your new dog on walks
- ▶ Visit other family members
- ▶ Take your new dog to the pet store
- ▶ Take your new dog for unnecessary car rides

**Anne Arundel County Animal Care & Control requires you to take your new dog to see your veterinarian within 5 days of adoption for a well veterinary visit*



Protect your family
Protect your pets
Protect your community
Be a responsible pet owner

411 Maxwell Frye Road
Millersville, MD 21108
410-222-8900
www.aacounty.org/pets
Facebook: @AACAnimalCareControl
Twitter: @AACAnimalCareCtrl

Bringing Home Your New Dog



Anne Arundel County Animal Care & Control

411 Maxwell Frye Road
Millersville, MD 21108
410-222-8900

www.aacounty.org/pets

Facebook: @AACAnimalCareControl
Twitter: @AACAnmlCareCtrl

Crate Training

A crate, just large enough for your dog to stand up and turn around in, with bedding, should be set up in a quiet place. This will become your dog's personal den, where s/he can find comfort, solitude, and feel safe and secure. His/her space in the crate should be respected. Do not allow anyone to go into the crate while your dog is inside.

For the first two weeks, your new dog should be confined to the crate except for exercise, bathroom trips outside and 20-30 minute leashed interactions with your family inside of your home. Your new dog should be fed meals in the crate.

The crate should **never** be used as a punishment and your dog should not be crated for more than 3-4 hours at a time without a break.

Only approach your new dog if s/he is being quiet. If you approach while your dog is barking or whining in the crate, it will reinforce those behaviors.

Use a Leash

For at least two weeks your dog should be leashed whenever outside of his/her crate, including inside of the home. The leash will allow you to maintain control of your new dog, help you monitor your new dog's activities and help your dog learn his/her position in the "pack".

It is the law in Anne Arundel County that your dog must always be on a leash when outside, unless inside of your securely fenced yard.

House Training

Be patient! Change and stressful situations can sometimes cause previously house trained dogs to have accidents.

While your new dog adjusts, it is critical to:

- ▶ Maintain a consistent schedule so that your new dog can learn when s/he will have opportunities to eliminate
- ▶ Use plenty of praise when s/he eliminates in the appropriate area
- ▶ **Not** punish your new dog for accidents
- ▶ **Be patient** while your new dog adjusts

Exercise

A tired dog is a happy dog!

During the first two weeks, exercise your new pet either with toys inside or on a lunge line (a very long leash) outside, even if you have a fenced in yard. After the initial two weeks, find additional ways to get your dog the exercise s/he needs. Always keep exercise fun and positive!



Meeting New People

Your first goal as your dog's new owner is to get your dog comfortable with you and his/her place in your immediate family.

After a few weeks with your family, you can slowly start to introduce your dog to other new people, one person at a time.

To encourage success:

- ▶ All introductions should be done with your dog on a leash
- ▶ Always let your dog approach a new person; never allow the person to approach the dog, as this may make him/her feel cornered
- ▶ Closely watch your dog's behavior and remove him/her from any situation where s/he exhibits signs of stress, particularly signs of "fight" (growling, hackles raised, showing teeth) or "flight" (attempting to dart or pull away from something/someone)
- ▶ Show both children and adults how to be respectful of your new dog and teach your new dog to respect all people

Children should never be left unattended with an animal.

Seek Professional Advice

Anne Arundel County Animal Care & Control recommends that you look for an experienced dog trainer who can show you how to teach your dog, help you strengthen the human/animal bond, and set your new pet up for success.

Watch your new dog closely around its food, treats, or toys. If s/he exhibits any signs of possession aggression, seek advice from an experienced dog trainer or your veterinarian.