NEW DOG TIPS

Be patient and expect accidents. Coming into a new home can be very stressful for a dog, not knowing if the family will be kind to them or abusive. Many dogs have never been in a home. If the dog is not a puppy, the learning period is generally quite fast...several days to several weeks. Your patience and only using positive reinforcement will pay off in the long run, creating a lifelong, loyal companion!

Introduce your new dog to dogs you already have by (this will take as many people as dogs) taking them all for a walk, starting a good distance apart and gradually get closer and closer, and let them sniff each other and then secrete a bit and get closer and closer until they are walking side by side. Expect scuffles the first week or so while the dogs are forming their pecking order. This is totally natural for dogs to growl and snarl a little to figure out who end up being the boss.

If you have other dogs in the home or young children, REMOVE ALL BONES! DOG TOYS AND CHEWEEZ. These items can be bait for a catastrophe. Chewable dog treats that are eaten right away are ok.

Once your new pooch is home, take them outside to go potty the second you get home, the second you wake in the morning, and right before retiring for the evening take them outside. Also take out every half hour to hour while home and use the same door to go outside. Keep tiny, soft treats by the door that you can grab on the way out to reward immediately once they relieve themselves outside. Deliver the great and give lots of baby talk praise like "GOOD to go potty outside!" Do this every time they are successful doing their duty outside...for a week or two or as long as it takes.

A great way to prevent your new pup from sneaking around the corner and pottying in the house, attach a long lead (about 6-10ft) to your pooches collar and attach it to your belt or waist.

If you catch them in the act, shake a can filled with coins the instant you see them, and take them outside and say "go potty outside". Clean the soiled area thoroughly, with a urine specific cleaner and block off that location by placing a table, chair or pot over the area. This is only temporary.

Crating may be necessary but only in the beginning while your new pooch is learning the ropes. Make sure the crate is placed where the family is or in your bedroom. Crate should be large enough for the dog to stand up, and turn around comfortably. Place a blanket is the crate along with a stuffed KONG (fill with peanut butter, yogurt, or either mixed with kibbles of food and freeze it the night before) or bone with marrow inside. You can get these items at Petsmart/Petco or Amazon.

If you are like many dog lovers, your new pooch may be a sleeping buddy in your bed. To prevent him or her from sneaking off in the middle of the night to do business, attach a long lead, maybe 4-5 feet around your arm and attached to their collar. This will alert you to the need to take them outside. Don't worry...this is only needed during initial acclamation period.