

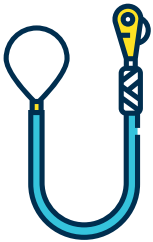
Adopting a Shelter Dog

Thank you for adopting from the Austin Humane Society! Bringing home a new pet is an exciting time for the whole family. Here are a few ways to make the transition smooth for everyone:



1. First stop: Home!

Though it can be tempting to go to the dog park or the pet store to treat your new friend to a fun time, it's best to head straight home. Remember that your new dog has been through a lot recently, and all these fun new experiences can be overwhelming. It's best to give your dog a little time to settle in first before planning your next adventure.



2. Keep a close watch

Restrict access to a small section of your home using doors and baby gates for at least the first week. That way you'll learn what your dog already knows, and what you both need to focus on for training. Using a leash while outside, even in a fenced area, will help until you know for sure your dog won't escape.



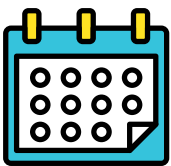
3. Take it slow

Take plenty of time before introducing your dog to other dogs, cats, kids or visitors. Even if things go well, keep sessions short at first until you know everyone gets along. In order to be successful, it's important not to rush those new relationships.



4. Reward the good stuff

Every time you see your dog doing something you like, be sure to offer praise, treats, or toys. Early rewards for behaviors like sitting quietly by your side, coming when called, going potty outside or not jumping on visitors will help reinforce good behavior.



5. You can't hurry love!

We know you want to bond quickly with your new friend, but your dog needs time to decompress from shelter life first. It can take a week or more for a dog to show their true personality, understand your expectations and learn the new routine at home. Be patient with your new dog and you'll be rewarded with a lifetime of love.

More questions about the behavior or health of your dog?

This packet is full of information including our veterinary and behavioral partners and lots of tips and tricks to make your adoption successful!

