



## **Instructions for New Dog from Transport**

First and foremost, thank you for fostering/adopting and saving these precious lives!

There are some things that you should know when taking a dog directly from a transport to adopt or foster.

The first two days must be calm and quiet for the dog. Go SLOW! They have just been through a crazy 24 hours and have a lot of pent up stress that can come out in a negative way if overwhelmed during this crucial time.

No playing off leash for at least the first two days with other animals. Absolutely NO dog parks! Dog parks can be a risky endeavor even with a dog you know and trust. Not only is it a great way to expose your dog to parasites, but it also presents the added challenge of dog owners with little to no knowledge on proper dog etiquette/behavior and can easily lead to a disagreement amongst the dogs (and people). Bottom line- it is not a good situation to throw your dog into while you are trying to convince them that they can trust your judgment and follow your lead.

No show and tell with friends/family for the first few days- give them a chance to trust **you** before pushing them on to other people and potentially overwhelming them.

Put rules and boundaries in place NOW and stick to them. If you don't want them sleeping in bed with you then don't allow it in the beginning. If you change the rules as they are adjusting that will only confuse the dog and create instability thus creating anxiety. If you make it clear what is expected in your home, they will adjust quicker and you will be much happier with the dog you have impressed upon.

No testing out their temperament/labeling them. How do you get when you are overtired and hungry? Short fused? A bit on the cranky side? Realize that these dogs are in an over tired/stressed state so please understand that and give them some peace and quiet for the first couple of days. If they growl at your animals it doesn't mean they are dog aggressive, it only means they are not yet ready for interacting with them so please respect that and give them time and space to get more comfortable before moving forward with introductions. Don't jump to conclusions- dog behavior can change dramatically in the first week or two.

That culminates my next point of empathy vs. sympathy. To understand what a dog has been through and be patient with them while they adjust does not mean to feel sorry for them and allow poor behavior or make excuses for them for the rest of their life. One of the most remarkable things about dogs is their ability to be present in the moment and let go of past injustices done to them. Whether they have been abused, neglected or even tortured, does not need to follow them to their future, but it will if YOU choose to

define them with their past and tolerate poor behavior because of it. So give them this time to decompress in the beginning, but as you gain their trust be sure to guide them with what is acceptable and what is not.

Avoid bathing them if possible. This may be stressful for a dog that is already overwhelmed with all of the recent changes in their life.

They will often be hungry and thirsty when first coming off transport. One of the first things you should do when you get them home is provide them with fresh water and a bowl of food (mixed with warm water to aid in digestion). Do not pester them while they are eating please.

The best way to create a bonding experience with your dog is to take them for a **short** structured walk after they have gotten something to eat and drink. Again, you do not want to expose them to a lot of new things right now (excessive traffic, people, other dogs) so keep your walks short and close to home.

Keep their space small. Do not give them the freedom of wandering around your entire home unattended. Keep a leash on them for the first few days so you can use that to teach them rules and boundaries without grabbing at their collar. As an example, if you do not want them on the furniture and they do not respond to a verbal command, you can use the end of the leash to give a little tug and follow through with your request without being perceived as threatening to the dog.

Provide them with a crate/safe place to go in when they are overwhelmed. This is especially important for dogs that are anxious. It provides them with comfort and calms them. Denning is

therapeutic for the anxious dog and also helps maintain boundaries and control excitement when they are unattended.

Get them into a potty routine. Dogs often have accidents in the first days in their new home. Keeping them on a regular and frequent potty schedule can help avoid this.

Leash control! **Very important with your new dog!!** We recommend using slip leads to prevent them from slipping out of their collars and encourage all fosters/adopters to bring one for their dog to transport with them. If you do not have one then before you attach a leash to your dog make sure that their collar or harness is fitted tightly so they cannot get away from you. Nothing is worse than trying to catch a scared/nervous dog that has no attachment to you and is in unfamiliar territory. Leash control is very important in the first week or two of having your dog.

Car control is also important. When you pick your dog up from transport, you will need to safely transport them to your home. We strongly recommend bringing a crate to transport your dog in. We do not know how they ride in cars and nothing is worse than trying to drive a car down the highway while your dog is trying to jump in your lap or worse. If you are going to have another dog with you it is imperative that you keep the dogs safely separated for the drive home. When you get home make sure that your dog is leashed securely before removing them from the crate and car.

This coincides with controlling the doorways in your home. Before you open any doors be aware of where your dog is and make sure they are safely secured (crate/gate) or respecting the door space to avoid them bolting out.

Depending on each dog's needs you will receive a med bag for your dog coming off transport. This will contain preventative medications (flea/tick/heart worm) as well as, preventative doses of dewormer for common parasites. In the bag will be specific instructions regarding administration of these medications. If you have any questions call or email Heather at [pottersangels11@yahoo.com](mailto:pottersangels11@yahoo.com) or 802-728-3550 (landline) or 802-369-9914 (cell).

We have helpful documents on all kinds of common behavior issues on our website at [www.pottersangelsrescue.org](http://www.pottersangelsrescue.org) Please utilize this valuable resource as needed. If you have any questions at all do not hesitate to ask! If you adopt from PAR you have a friend for life and we are always happy to help in any way we can.

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Although we may get busy and not thank you near enough for what you are doing, receiving an animal that was not supposed to be alive to walk off that van makes it all worthwhile. Please never forget why you are doing this and ALWAYS remember you are LOVED AND APPRECIATED!! God bless you for helping us save these innocent lives~