

Thank you for adopting your new furry family member from Fisantekraal Animal Welfare!

You have made a real difference – in their life and yours. We wish you many happy years of love and companionship ahead.

We believe each animal adopted is an ambassador for animal adoptions everywhere, and we want everyone to be happy throughout the process – and forever. Many people have worries, concerns, or questions when they adopt a new pet; some go through a ‘what have I done’ moment – this is normal. We hope that this adoption info will help.

No matter how many animals you’ve had before or how often you’ve adopted, there is almost always something to wonder about.

Please contact us if you’re concerned or unsure, or have any questions; we are very happy to help. And please do keep us updated on your new pet’s progress – we absolutely love hearing and seeing how they’re doing!

Many tail wags and purrs
Fisantekraal Animal Welfare

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“I don’t know that I’m ‘adopted’...”

Put yourself in your new dog’s paws: they don’t yet know that they’re ‘adopted’ or that this is their ‘forever home’. Try to understand that they may be a little bewildered or even scared; they don’t know the rules and what they may or may not do (including where they’re allowed to go ‘toilet’).

No matter how good or bad the place they came from was, this is still a big change - they’re looking to you to show them the ropes, teach the rules, make them feel safe, and help them understand what their place in this new home is. This move is stressful to them – it’s all new and unfamiliar!

Always try to see things from the new dog’s point of view and be patient, consistent, and calm.

FETCHING YOUR NEW DOG

Please have a collar and tag ready when you fetch your dog and put this on before you even place the dog in your car. Having a collar makes it easier to control them in the car, stop them from slipping out when you arrive home, and you can grab them if they bolt. A tag is crucial if they do manage to escape and disappear.

Do not stop anywhere on the way home with your new dog, be it the shops or a friend – it is stressful to them, and you run the risk of them escaping.

If you are bringing your other dog/s along when you fetch the new dog, have someone else in the car to maintain control as you don’t yet know how they will react to each other in close quarters. Ideally, leave them at home.

PREPARATION

Before you even bring your new dog home, ensure that everything is ready for them so that their arrival is stress-free for everyone.

This means that the property is secure, their bed is in place, you have all the ‘bits and pieces’ you need (including food), and the entire family knows the rules and routine ahead.

ENSURE THAT THERE IS NOWHERE THE DOG CAN SLIP OUT OF THE PROPERTY.

Newly-adopted dogs are often curious, scared, or bewildered and may try to leave the property/run away*; it is during the first few days that this risk is greatest, and they can get lost or injured. Look at your property from a dog’s eye view to spot possible weak spots - this includes anything leaning against a wall that your dog could use to climb over.

*Note: this doesn’t necessarily mean you have adopted an escape artist – remember, the dog doesn’t know that he or she is at their new home or where the home’s boundaries are. Invariably, when people handle this calmly and consistently, it isn’t long before they dog is very happy to stay put. Please see info on pages 8 – 9.

Note: As of January 2016, all dogs adopted from FAW are microchipped! If your new dog gets out, please let us know immediately so that we can place a ‘lost dog’ alert on the chip.

Checklist

- ✓ **Collar with tag**
 - ✓ **Leash**
 - ✓ **Food and water bowls**
 - ✓ **Food** – dogs at the rescue centre eat a wide variety of foods, from different brands of pellets, to raw food; foster dogs' diets vary so please check with the foster. It's your decision what you're going to feed them in future, but we recommend choosing good quality food as this keeps their overall health good, which reduces vet visits.
We also recommended getting a small tub of Protexin – a probiotic for animals – as many dogs get a bit of an upset tummy due to the change in food and environment.
 - ✓ **Toys** – don't be disappointed if your newly-adopted dog doesn't play with toys; many have never had this luxury. Keep trying and, chances are, they will eventually catch on! They will, however, enjoy chewable treats like hooves or marrow bones.
 - ✓ **Bed and blankets** – some rescue dogs take time getting used to the luxury of having a bed of their own and may initially choose to lie on the floor. Don't force them but keep showing them where they may sleep (putting some treats in the bed helps!).
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BRINGING YOUR DOG HOME

This is an exciting - and nerve-wracking time. How you introduce your new dog sets the tone for the rest of your lives together.

Remember, dogs WANT to fit in; they want to be part of your pack - with you as their leader. Start off as you mean to go on: with you in charge. They will feel more secure and happier if they know where they fit in. Having a routine really helps (i.e. feeding around the same time, etc.)

Identify: The sooner you can put a collar and tag on your new dog, the better (take it along when you fetch them). It is usually within the first week or two that newly adopted animals slip out, either because they're bewildered or because they want to explore or are stressed. See pages 8 – 10 for more info.

They do not know your area so it is crucial that you supervise them, and ensure that they can be identified should someone else find them.

All dogs and cats adopted from FAW are microchipped.

Familiar smells: If you're fetching your new dog yourself, take or wear something that smells of your other pets (e.g. a blanket). This way he/she will get used to their smell before even arriving.

It can also help to take something that smells of the new dog to your existing pets in advance.

Take the lead: Bring the new dog onto the property using the lead (not carrying them, even if it's a small dog) - try to walk in ahead of the dog.

If you have other pets, don't allow the newbie to run into the house and up to other dogs as they may feel they're being 'invaded'. Take him/her to the cats' and/or dogs' bedding so they can have a sniff. Watch your new dog to see how they react – he/she should appear interested and friendly.

Important: keep new dogs on the lead when introducing them to any other animals.

Keep calm: Supervise them in the beginning but stay calm. Avoid 'screaming', even you're if excited and happy. Dogs perceive this as unsettling or it can 'wind them up'.

If anyone is very anxious, overly excitable, or anticipating disaster, ask them not to be there initially. Animals sense emotion and can react accordingly; you want them to start off in a calm, balanced, and positive manner. They can meet the new dog when things have calmed down.

New and existing pets: Don't expect new and existing pets to become friends straight away – some take longer than others.

Make sure existing pets, especially dogs, see and understand that they're still important and aren't being 'replaced', but ensure you stay in charge. Let them eat first, give them the same attention you always have, and don't allow the new dog to eat their food or take over their beds or favourite spots.

Feeding time: Dogs can be very protective over food. Do not leave food out 24 hours a day – twice a day (morning and night) is best. Ideally, feed your new dog separately from other dogs for the first 10 – 14 days.

Some dogs coming from shelters can have food guarding issues; this is usually easily resolved if you nip it in the bud quickly – it does not mean they are 'aggressive' and dangerous. This will usually show itself with going very still and moving over the bowl, showing the whites of their eyes and/or growling, which can progress to snapping.

Never allow children or other animals to approach the new dog while it is eating - and if there is growling, snarling, or snapping, contact FAW or an animal behaviourist.

Safe place: Young dogs and puppies can be overwhelming to existing pets, especially seniors - make sure they have safe, calm place to retreat to where the new dog may not go.

If you have a spare room, this is perfect. Alternatively, try sectioning off a portion of a large room.

Your new dog may also appreciate having a room or section where it knows it's safe to retreat to.

Put on your walking shoes: Start walking them daily as soon as possible to work off extra energy and learn to listen to you. This is also a very important bonding time. Just make sure they cannot pull out of their collar and run off!*

If the dog is very nervous or not used to walking on lead, you will need to work up to walks, starting with getting them used to a lead at home. Work off energy by playing with them instead.

If you have other dogs, you may need to take it/them separately at first.

*Note: if your new dog should run away, do not chase it! This can make them run faster. Rather get a strong-smelling treat (e.g. cheese, peanut butter, mini cheddars, biltong, etc), crouch or sit down, and hold the treat out to them calling softly. Be patient.

Settle down: No matter how much you want to show the newbie off, rather let things settle down for a day or so, allowing everyone to get used to each other, before having visitors over. When people do visit ask them to pay attention to the other dog/s before the new one.

If you have rules that you want your new dog to learn, like 'no jumping' or 'no getting on the couch', ask that these be adhered to by visitors.

Getting attached: Initially, the new dog may attach itself to one family member and follow that person around, always staying by their side. This is usually the person who is home the most and/or the person who feeds them. This is great and it helps the dog learn the ropes and get settled!

Just be careful not to allow the dog become possessive over that person; ensure that the dog spends time with all family members. The person they've become attached to should encourage other family members to approach and interact with the dog, and other family members should call the dog to them and play with or pet them (brushing, stroking, etc.). The dog's favourite person should also leave occasionally (even if only for 10 minutes) to allow the dog to get used to being around other people.

If a dog growls at other people approaching 'their' person, this is not ok. Immediately tell them 'no' (don't shout) and move away from them. Don't shout, chase, or grab the dog as this could cause a nervous dog to snap. Please contact us or an animal behaviourist if this happens.

Be consistent: The main thing to remember is to be consistent! Dogs thrive on routine and, just like people, when they're new and unsettled, having a consistent routine really helps keep them calm because they know what to expect.

Remember, your dog is looking to YOU to show them what to do and what is expected of them. Think of yourself as a tour guide showing around a foreign visitor who doesn't speak your language!

Enjoy it! This time is precious and you'll have great fun getting to know your new pet!

SUMMARY OF DOG ADOPTION DO's AND DON'Ts

DO

- ✓ Stay calm and in charge
- ✓ Be gentle and consistent
- ✓ Be patient
- ✓ Keep an eye on interactions with other pets in the beginning
- ✓ Introduce your new dog while holding onto the leash
- ✓ If they want to investigate other pets, walk with them; pulling them away makes them more excited
- ✓ Remember that they don't know this is their new home yet
- ✓ Contact FAW if you have any questions or concerns with your new family member!

DON'T

- X Shriek, shout, or use loud, high-pitched voices.
- X Panic - calm you equals calm animals.
- X Expect perfection immediately, although it can and does happen.
- X Let your new dog 'replace' or bully existing pets.
- X Punish them – they need to associate each other with good things, not bad.
- X Force things – let the animals set the pace; all you do is supervise.
- X Get a new dog and then leave them the very next day for long hours, especially with other animals if you are not absolutely sure no fights will break out.

HOUSETRAINING TIPS

One thing most people are worried about is housetraining! It's nothing to panic about and is actually usually easier in adult dogs than pups. Adults are more focused, better at controlling their bladder, and learn very quickly.

Some dogs pick it up in no time, some take longer. Be prepared to set aside time and to spend plenty of time in the yard. Yes, it can be a mission at first, but if done correctly, most dogs are housetrained within 2 weeks – for life. Totally worth it!

The success of housetraining lies in you being alert, you being consistent, and you being patient and persistence. In other words, it lies with you!

Very important: DO NOT SHOUT AT OR PUNISH THEM if they don't go where you want them to – remember, this is all new for them; they don't know they may not go in a specific spot and where they should go instead.

When your dog does right PRAISE THEM (not overly loudly or too excitedly, just tell them they are a good dog, pet them, and you can even give them a small treat.

Housetraining do's

- ✓ **Be alert!** Dogs usually have a different expression or way of walking when they need to go; if you see them acting a little 'strained', it might be time to take them outside.

Some dogs 'sneak away' and do their business out of sight of their owner, so be alert! (This is usually due to having been housetrained in a harsh way.) If your new dog suddenly goes off where you can't see him, follow and then take them outside.

Warning signs: sniffing the floor, circling, 'walking with long legs', disappearing around the corner suddenly or heading for a room they've previously 'gone' in, a worried or strained expression, suddenly being restless, repeatedly going to the door to go outside.

- ✓ If they go outside where you want them to, praise them and make sure they know they did the right thing!

If they don't go when/where you want them to, stay calm and try again next time.

- ✓ **Always feed your dog at the same time of day** (i.e. not leaving food out all day and night). This will make it much easier to housetrain them.

If your dog eats indoors, let them out straight after eating.

- ✓ **Bathroom breaks:** Ideally, give your dog at least 6 – 8 'bathroom breaks' daily (more initially) – first thing in the morning, last thing at night, after each meal, and in between, even if they don't seem to want to go.

After your dog has eaten, just woken up, or has been playing or excited are 'danger times' when your dog may start looking around to have a wee or do their business.

- ✓ **You may need to go with them into the garden and wait** – some dogs will refuse to go on their own because they fear being locked out. Give them at least 5 - 10 minutes. If they want to go back inside immediately, just be patient – don't play or talk to them a lot; just relax and consider it time to get fresh air!
Walk up and down slowly so that they also walk and sniff around.

If, after 5 minutes, nothing has happened, go back inside. Watch them closely – this is the time when some dogs will go! If you see any sign that they're thinking of it, take them out again. Otherwise, wait 20 minutes and try again.

- ✓ **If they have made a mess in the house, clean the area thoroughly with white vinegar.** This breaks down the odour (and, even if you can't smell it after using soap or floor cleaner, your dog can).

Dogs tend to do their business where they've gone before – they follow their noses. So, removing all trace of scent where you don't want them to go will help to prevent them from repeatedly going in the same spot. If you have loose rugs, it's best to pick them up initially as it's not as easy to clean rugs as it is tiles, wood, or laminate.

- ✓ **Clean up their mess (urine and faeces) using newspaper; place this newspaper where you do want them to go** (hold it down with a brick or rock so it doesn't blow away).

When you take your dog outside, show them the area where you placed the soiled newspaper (don't rub their nose in it!), and allow them to sniff it and walk about. The idea is that they will follow their noses to where they last 'went'. Sniffing and walking can also stimulate them into going to the loo.

- ✓ **IF you catch them 'in the act'**, you can clap your hands and say 'no' – don't do this AFTER they've done it as they won't make the connection. If you've managed to stop them, take them outside, wait for them to finish and praise and reward them.

Night time

Most adult dogs sleep through the night, but some, especially when new, will need to pee or do their business at night. At night, stay calm and quiet – don't excite them or you will create the idea that night time is a great time to get you up and playing in the garden.

Option 1: Put their bed near your bedroom or inside your room so you can hear if your dog wakes up and needs to go (whining, restless, etc.). Get up, calmly take them outside, and do as you would during the day. When done, settle them quietly into bed.

Option 2: If you can't have them nearby & have had some messing in the house overnight, you may need to set an alarm – experiment with the time (based on how often your dog goes during the day) to take them out.

Don't worry, although it sounds like you have loads of sleepless nights ahead, it should only last a very short while – rather establish good habits now than try to fix bad ones later.

Housetraining Don'ts

- X NEVER shout, punish, scare, or be harsh with your dog while housetraining (and this includes the very cruel practice of rubbing their noses in it).

All that will happen is your dog will learn one main thing about housetraining: that going in front of their owners is bad. They will start hiding from you and going in hidden spots, and not giving you warning when they need to go out – thus making your task even harder.

- X Don't just put your dog into the yard, shut the door, and leave them out – chances are, your dog will be so focused on getting back inside that he will totally forget about doing his business!
- X Don't wait for your dog to let you know it needs to go out – you want to prevent accidents from happening.
- X Don't panic. If you persevere and stay calm, consistent, and patient, it will work!

If, despite being consistent and doing everything right, your dog is still peeing everywhere, there may be something else going on such as a bladder infection.

However, 99% of the time, it is just down to housetraining methods and being consistent. Please contact us for further advice.

WHY YOUR NEW PET MAY TRY TO ESCAPE – AND WHAT TO DO

We really cannot emphasise enough: many newly adopted dogs (and cats!) try to get out of their new home in the first few days! PLEASE be careful!

Here's why

- They do not know they are adopted.
- They do not know you are their new family.
- They do not know where the boundaries of their property are.
- They are not 'escape artists' and they are not 'bad dogs' - 99% of the time, they settle within a week to two weeks.

So, in almost all cases, you only have to stick out the 'teething problems' for a short time!

What can you do?

Put a collar and tag on immediately and, if you have to, keep them inside the house and only take them outside into the yard in your presence. (Note: all FAWbies adopted from Jan 2016 are microchipped. If you adopted prior to this, please contact us for assistance.)

We also recommend that, when adopting a new dog, you take a couple of days off to settle them in. Remember that the dog doesn't have a clue what is going on and is looking to YOU for guidance.

So, aside from securing the property (e.g. adding a bit of fencing or plastic piping on top so they can't climb over a wall), you need to show them the ropes.

Show them how nice it is inside the property, start taking them out for walks so they can familiarise themselves with their surroundings and the concept of 'on lead outside the property, off lead inside'. This helps them learn where their space begins and ends.

Put yourself in their paws

Wouldn't you be bewildered? How would you know: here is where 'my' home ends and I may not go further? How would you know: I am supposed to stay here; this is my new home now?

If you are nervous or afraid, anything familiar seems safe. If there's nothing familiar, the unknown is as appealing as staying in a place you know nothing about.

Remember that many of these animals have had several homes - their original home, the rescue centre (in our case, they moved so that = 2 homes!) and then yours. Imagine how confusing this can be.

So, please, be aware, be prepared, and give them a chance.

Note: Not all newly adopted dogs run off! Most stay put.

What to do if your new pet does get out

1. The minute you discover your new pet is missing, **please contact FAW immediately** so that we can assist; we can also put a 'lost dog alert' on their microchip.
2. **Contact all the vets** in the area as well as the **SPCA, Animal Anti-Cruelty League, etc.** You will be surprised at how far afield strays can be picked up. (See numbers below.)
3. Ensure you have **a recent photo** - and take your phone with you with the picture on it, or a print out, so you can show people.
4. **Walk around the blocks** near your house (take strong-smelling treats like biltong with you) - they may be in a neighbour's garden, a nearby park, or simply wondering around just around the corner.
5. **Ask** any passersby if they have seen your dog and go to your neighbours to ask if they've taken them in.
6. There are several **lost/found Facebook pages** where you can post your missing pet. If you're not active on Facebook, please let us know so that we can assist.
7. **If you spot your new pet**, unless they're very relaxed in your company already, do NOT chase them! This may cause them to bolt as they're bewildered or they think it's a game. Rather sit down if possible and softly call them, preferably with a treat in your hand.
8. If, **by the following day**, you still haven't found your dog, you need to make flyers with their photo on it and hand them out and post at vets, noticeboards, and on lamp posts. (Remember to take them down once you've found your pet.)

See next page for important contacts.

Important contacts

FAW: 079 173 8260 / info@faw.za.org / [Facebook](#)

SPCA Grassy Park: 021 700 4158/59

Animal Anti-Cruelty League Bellville: 021 951 3010

Animal Anti-Cruelty League Epping: 021 534 6426

Facebook pages

- [Petfinders Cape Town](#)
- [Cape Town Lost and Found Pets](#)
- [Durbanville Pets: Lost and Found](#)

Vets (check the vets in your vicinity too if you adopted in other areas)

- **Tygerberg Animal Hospital Bellville** - 1 Kontiki Avenue, Glen Ive, near Stodels - 021 919 1191
- **Durbanville Animal Hospital** - cnr Plein and Durban Roads, Durbanville - 021 976 3031
- **Goedemoed Animal Hospital** - Lubbe Street, Durbanville - 021 975 6385
- **Brackenfell Animal Clinic** - Brackenfell Medical Centre, Old Paarl road, Brackenfell - 021 981 3811
- **Panorama Veterinary Clinic** - 1 Uys Krige Drive, Panorama - 021 930-6632
- **Cape Animal Medical Centre** - 78 Rosmead Avenue, Kenilworth - 021 674 0034
- **Belmont Road Veterinary Clinic** - 16 Belmont Road, Rondebosch - 021 685 7750