

Care tips

Bringing a New Dog to your home

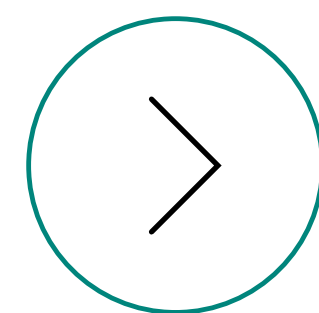
A Practical Guide for Dog Owners



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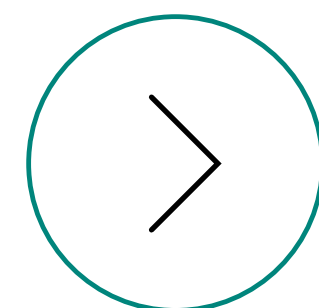
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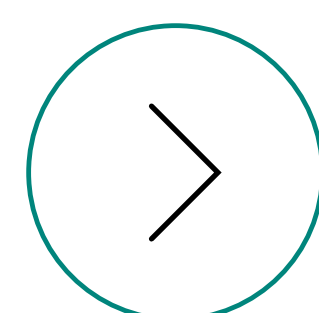
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Welcoming a new
dog into your home

Are you looking for a new pet to bring into your life?

Before you adopt a pet, you need to consider your current lifestyle and how this could change in upcoming years. A pet may require some adjustments in your schedule including time to feed, walk and play.

Pets require attention and care that varies depending on the type and breed you choose. Whether you are looking for a cuddly companion or an active playmate, choose a pet whose needs fit your daily schedule. A new furry friend will enrich your life!





Why adopt?

Adopting a shelter puppy or dog is a sure way to find a new furry friend!

By adopting a pet from a shelter you're saving a life and giving your new dog his best second chance at happiness.

You can choose from a variety of breeds and ages and find a dog with the right size and temperament for your home.

Dogs from shelters and rescues are usually already vaccinated, spayed/neutered, and microchipped. If the dog is not yet spayed or neutered, many areas have programs with participating local veterinarians to provide these procedures.

You can adopt a dog that has already had some basic training.

Adopting an older dog gives mature animals a second chance, and because they are adult, house-trained dogs, it often means that introducing them into your home will be easier.

By adopting an animal, you also help shelters by making room for other stray and lost dogs. Also, the cost of your adoption will be reinvested in taking care of the animals that still remain in the shelter.

**Because you will be saving
a pet's life!**



How to adopt a dog

Look online:

There are some reputable search engines that have adoptable pets. You can filter by geography, breed, age, and gender.

Find a rescue:

Animal rescues often work with overwhelmed shelters to place pets into foster homes and give dogs a chance to be adopted. Some rescues are breed based and have networks of volunteers who help prepare the dogs for adoption.

Visit a shelter

Use Google to find a nearby shelter. Many shelters are open 7 days a week, but check the adoption hours to make sure the staff are ready to show you around and the pets are ready for your visit! Shelter staff members are usually very knowledgeable and can talk with you about the right pet for your home!

Adopting a shelter pet is a rewarding experience. You are expanding your circle of love at home, and providing a pet in need with a loving family.



Prepare for homecoming

Introducing a new dog into a household requires some planning and preparation.

The items on this checklist will help this transition for you and your precious new arrival:

Schedule an appointment with your veterinarian

Keeping your pet healthy is a top priority. Your veterinarian can give your new dog a check up, administer deworming medication and vaccines, and insert a microchip. This is also a good time to talk about spaying or neutering.

Select water and food bowls

Find a spot in your home to set out two bowls where your puppy can eat and drink undisturbed. Make sure the bowls are not too tall for a young pup to reach or cause an accidental tip over.

Acquire house training materials

If a puppy, start crate training with frequent trips outdoors to allow him to relieve himself. You can use absorbent materials, such as “pee pads” to cover the crate floor while your puppy is being house-trained.

Pick up cleaning supplies

Accidents happen. So have a good supply of paper towels and a cleaner on hand to wipe them up. Never punish your puppy for these accidents, he is still learning. Praise him when he does the right thing.

Assemble bedding

A puppy feels secure in a new home with his own cozy bed. A pet bed placed away from drafts will make your new dog warm and welcome.

Pick up toys

What youngster doesn't love toys? Playing with your new dog will help to strengthen the bonds between you. Puppies have baby teeth that will fall out, and the right toys can help with teething.



Crate training is widely recognized as a humane house-training technique based on the dog's instinctive desire to have a warm, clean den of his own.

And the proper enclosure can help your dog develop the control he needs to keep your house smelling clean and fresh.



Making
introductions

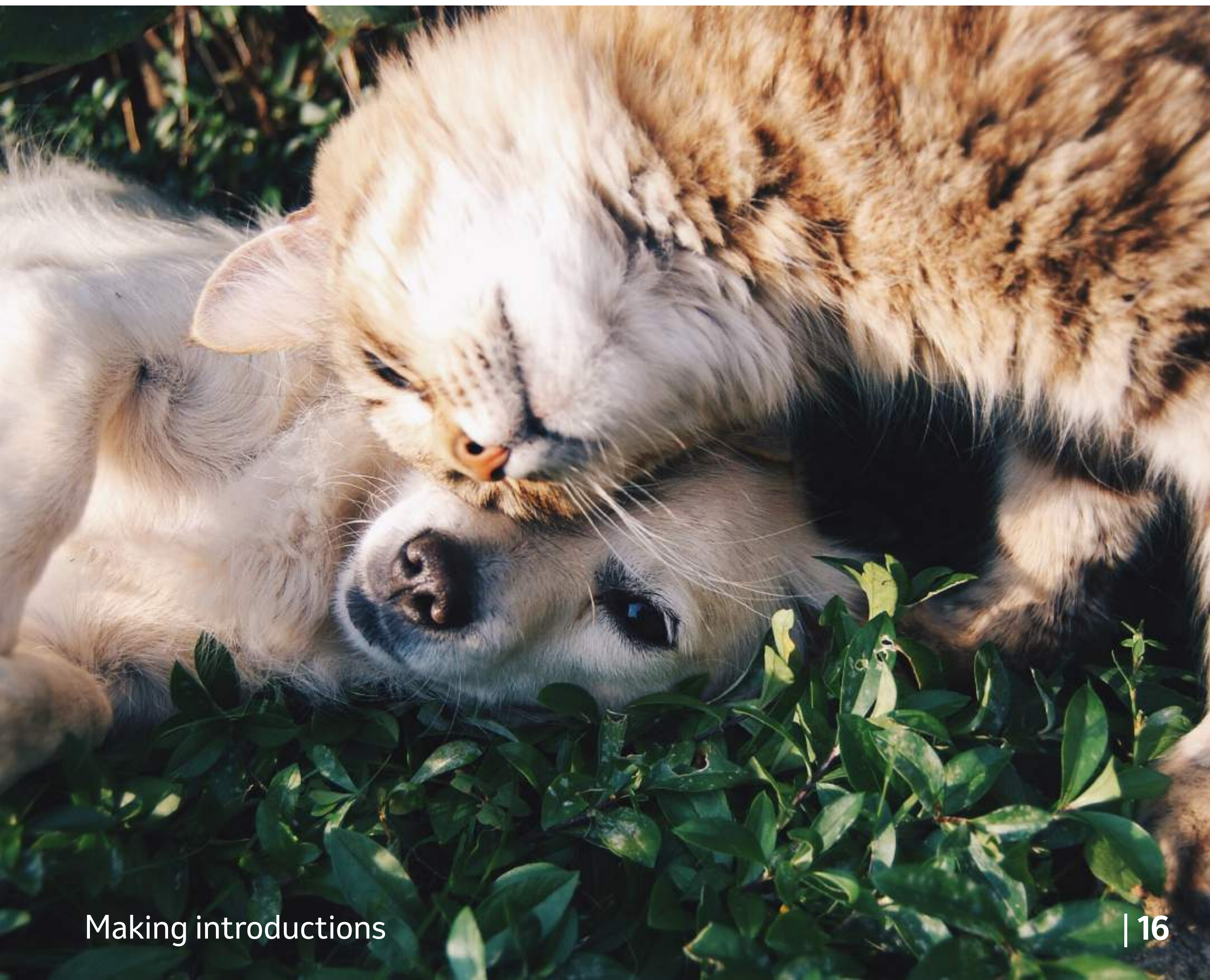
If you already have a dog or cat at home, then introducing a new dog takes some planning.

Dogs can be emotional and territorial, and jealousy is a strong emotion. With patience you will find that most pets come to accept one another and may even bond. This will take time and do not expect your new puppy to be an instant best friend; sometimes the best outcome is an indifferent tolerance.

Introducing a new dog to your cat

Closely supervise the introduction, keeping the new dog on a leash so that you can pull back if one pet becomes aggressive or if there is a danger of the dog getting clawed. Make sure your cat has an escape route. Both animals are likely to do a lot of sniffing to acquaint themselves with each other.

Reward them for staying calm; and separate them immediately if they become combative.



Just for dogs

Dogs are social animals that live naturally in packs, and every pack has its hierarchy. Your dogs will sort out who is leader of the pack. If possible, introduction at a neutral location, such as a park, is a good start. Ask a friend to handle one of the dogs, keep both on leashes, and let the dogs approach each other.

Let the dogs sniff each other briefly. Then separate the dogs, give each a brief walk, command them to sit or lie down, and praise and reward them with a treat. Then bring them back together to calmly reacquaint.



If they assume a playful position, then your dogs are likely to soon become pals. If you observe aggression or timidity, separate them and repeat the walk, command and reward.

Continue to allow the dogs to interact for short periods of time. Once the dogs tolerate each other, bring them home. Give each dog his own water and food bowl, bed and toys. Confine the dogs in separate areas whenever you are away and avoid inciting jealousy by dividing your attention evenly.

Seek assistance from your veterinarian, an animal behaviourist or a certified dog trainer if the dogs continue to show aggression or fear.

Sense of purpose

Many adults spend a large portion of their lives building their career and providing love and care for their children. After retirement, “fur kids” may be an excellent addition to life, providing love and companionship! Dogs may shower their pet parents with love and sloppy kisses and are content being around the people they love most.



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