

DOG ADOPTION – FIRST DAY CHECKLIST

The first day of dog adoption is an exciting and critical time for both you and your new furry companion.

To help ensure a smooth transition and a positive start to your journey together, this checklist will guide you through some important steps to make your new dog feel comfortable and secure in their new home.

From setting up a safe space to introducing them to their new surroundings, this outline will help you create a welcoming environment for your newest family member.

AREAS TO CONSIDER	CHECKLIST
Garden Exploration and Elimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Take dog to garden upon arrival <input type="checkbox"/> Keep dog on lead <input type="checkbox"/> Allow dog to sniff and eliminate
Allowing Time for Adjustment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Allow dog space and time to settle in <input type="checkbox"/> Interact calmly and quietly if approached <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid rushing to interact
Avoiding Overstimulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid walking your dog on the first day or as soon as they arrive home. They need to bond with you first! <input type="checkbox"/> Limit visitors to only household members
Introductions with Existing Pets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure positive introduction with other pets <input type="checkbox"/> Remove toys, beds, and food bowls <input type="checkbox"/> Introduce pets to each other gradually
Monitoring Activity Levels and Providing Comfort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor dog's activity levels <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage rest and sleep <input type="checkbox"/> Offer enrichment toys or scatter food for relaxation
Calming First-Night Nervousness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Be prepared for a disturbed few nights of sleep <input type="checkbox"/> Consider allowing the dog to sleep in the same room as you, but only if you want this to continue long-term.
Seeking Support and Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reach out to sanctuary staff for guidance and support if needed