



# Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter

## When you bring your new dog or puppy home

Having considered all the issues around the adoption of your new dog or puppy, it's time to introduce your new pet to your home and family.

### **Making your puppy feel safe and secure in a new environment**

Because your puppy has left the security and comfort of its mother and siblings, it is now totally reliant on you for all its needs - food, warmth and protection from things that might frighten it.

### **Inside or Outside?**

In either case the most basic need is a snug, warm and secure bed. If this is to be inside, the bed should be in a confined area, such as a laundry, and the dog or puppy needs to know from the very start that this room or kennel is their place and they are safe when in it. A kennel should be warm, dry and off the ground, close to the house and not in a thoroughfare.

### **Why is my puppy fretting?**

It is not unusual for a puppy to fret and perhaps whimper for the first few nights in its new surroundings.

There are a few simple things you can do to help it to feel more comfortable, such as placing a hot water bottle and a small transistor radio or ticking clock under his bedding. The warmth and the soft rhythmic sounds should do the trick and puppy and family will get a restful night's sleep!

### **Becoming familiar with the new surroundings**

As soon as your new dog or puppy is settled into the new surroundings, it should be familiarised with all of the normal sounds and activities of the household.

Other pets should be introduced to the new arrival gradually and closely supervised. This will help it to become confident and well socialised.

### **Nutrition**

A well balanced diet is essential to your dog's health and general well-being. High quality prepared dog food (both canned and dry) and raw bones are the most convenient way to do this - an all meat diet can lead to nutritional deficiencies and growth problems.

Remember that puppies have different nutritional requirements from adult dogs. They need frequent small meals and should be fed canned and dry foods specially formulated for puppies.

Your new dog or puppy should have its own sturdy food and water bowls placed near the sleeping area.

Cow's milk should not be given to dogs or puppies. Apart from being nutritionally unnecessary, cow's milk can cause diarrhoea. There is commercially prepared pet milk with low lactose available.

### **Bones**

Never offer cooked bones or bones which are likely to splinter. Large raw bones will give your dog or puppy hours of enjoyment and chewing on them will help keep teeth and gums clean and healthy.

### **Toilet training**

The best time to do this is immediately after a meal. You should introduce your dog or puppy to the area where you expect toileting to take place, whether it is to be a litter tray or an area of the yard.

Droppings should be regularly removed so your pet feels comfortable about using the same area again.

Seek more information from the Animal Shelter or your local vet.



This document contains important information. If you do not understand it, contact the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450.



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Saturday 9:30am-11:30am  
Sunday 7am-9am  
Public Holidays 7am-9am