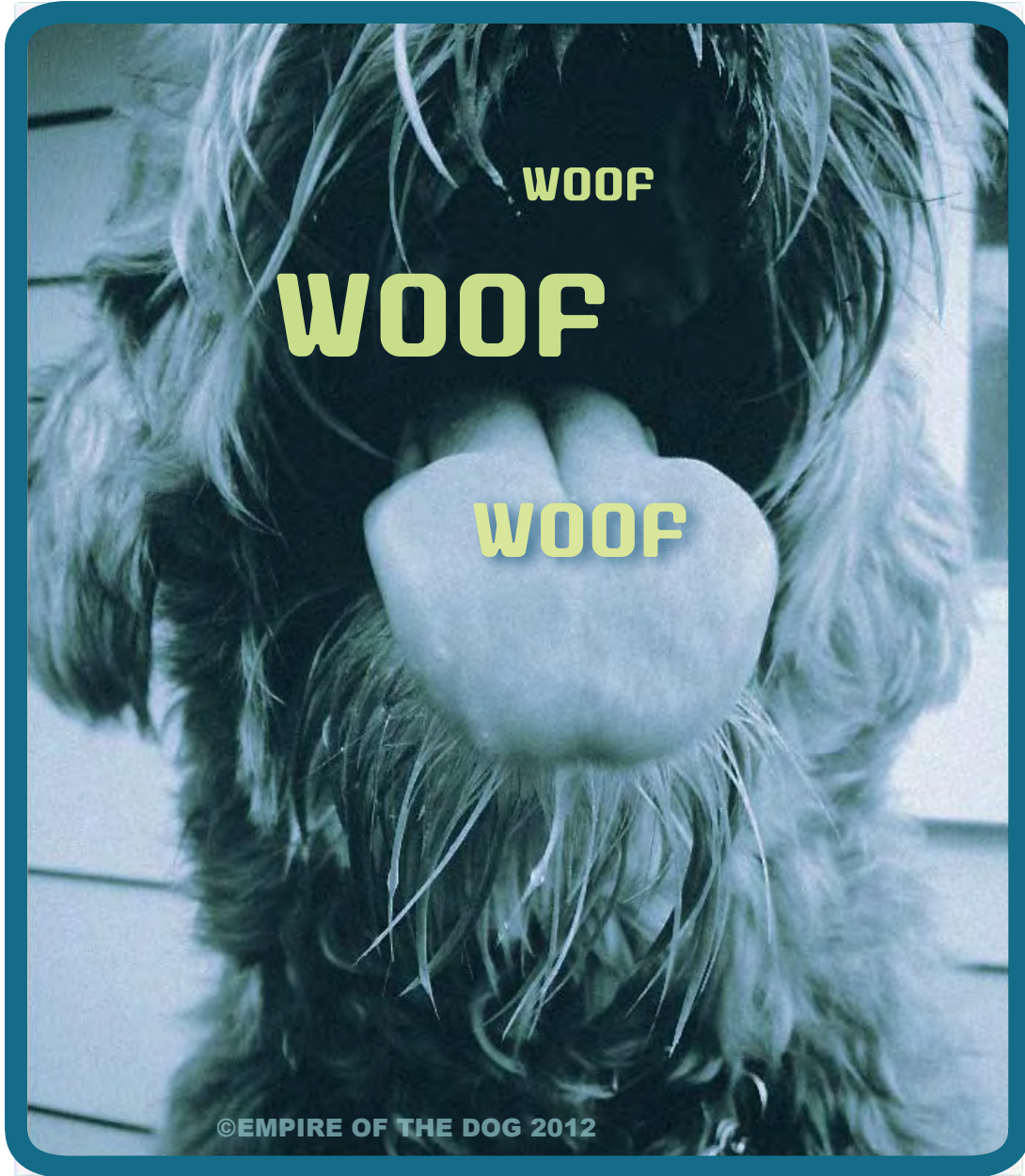


● WELCOME HOME ●



Expert Advice about Adopted Dogs



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CONGRATULATIONS!

on your new family member.



Your decision to ADOPT has saved not ONLY your NEW dog, but also created space for another pet in need to look for it's forever home.

FIDO'S FIRST DAYS HOME

[getting off on the right paw]

SEPARATION

Many newly rescued dogs experience symptoms of mild separation when they enter their new living situations. Often being moved from home to home leaves a dog more generically "uneasy" when left alone. The best way to avoid a surge in more separation behaviors is to leave your dog at home alone for brief, but varied periods right from the start, instead of staying at his side for days on end, only to leave eventually when work or errands require that you leave him alone-provoking an anxious response to your sudden absence.

TIME/ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Despite the fact that dogs are primarily pet "companions" these days, they still retain a strong biological hunting instinct and are designed to spend vast amounts of time and energy HUNTING for their food. One of the best things you can do to properly exercise your dog is to occupy his **mind and body** daily with activities that engage him in "working" for his food and meals. A simple puzzle toy or bone filled with food or snacks can both OCCUPY and TRAIN your dog simultaneously, while also buying you some free time to take care of your human errands. Think of it like Nintendo for your dog®

HOUSETRAINING

Dogs are very resilient and it's a misnomer to think that you can't retrain an older dog when in fact-you can! Start off on the right PAW by using a crate or gated area/small room to confine your dog when you are not able to adequately supervise them. You may also consider rationing your dog's water and giving it to them at SPECIFIC times daily, so that you can more easily predict when they'll be needing a bathroom break.

MEET -n- GREET

Remember that your new rescue dog has had their own previous set of experiences before they came to live with you. When introducing your dog to new people, progress slowly at first until you feel you have a reliable idea how your dog will respond. You can positively influence how your dog responds in new situations by using treats liberally in each new situation and with all the new people they meet to ensure they feel safe and comfortable with strangers.

SAFETY FIRST

ID TAGS & A SEAT BELT to safely transport your dog are a must
MICROCHIPS need to be updated to reflect your information after an adoption is finalized.

DOG PROOF your home paying special attention to poisons, medicines, electrical cords, windows and plants.

Never **TIE YOUR DOG** outside of a store while you run errands.
Don't make your DOG a SITTING DUCK.

FIDO Vs FLUFFY

Dogs can have several names and nicknames throughout their lives. You can feel comfortable changing your dog's name and having him learn a new one if you use his new name for "good news" and with a tasty treat every time he looks at you when you say it.

SPACE [the final frontier]

Consider in advance where you will be keeping your dog at several key times of the day. Many people use a crate or baby gate at first to give their dog limited access to things in the house that they may destroy or could be dangerous.

When No One is Home

Gated or enclosed in small room or area w/ baby gate.

Crated with a relief walk if left for longer than 5+ hours.

Remove collars and harnesses for safety when alone

Edible chew provided to help prevent boredom barking and separation anxiety

OVERNIGHT

Gated or enclosed in small room or area w/ baby gate.

Delay having the dog sleep in your bedroom or bed until you are sure he's housetrained and devoid of separation symptoms.

Remove water 1-2 hours before the last relief walk of the night, to help your dog hold his urine.

Basic Daytimes [1/2 supervised]

Keep a leash on your dog at home to aid in monitoring them more readily.

Attach the leash to a sturdy object in the same room to help keep him safe while you are busy nearby.

Provide MULTIPLE daily chew and puzzle toys to keep your dog chewing on the correct things.

DOGS & KIDS

Always supervise your dog when it's near any child. Many dogs are uncertain around children, but can warm up eventually—slowly and with patience. Use tasty bits of treats whenever your dog is near to a child and be sure to “sheriff” on your dog's behalf to prevent overexuberant greetings and “hazing” by well meaning, but pushy children.

PATIENCE is a VIRTUE

Almost any dog or puppy [no matter their history] will at some point in their life have a behavior “issue” -rehomed shelter dogs are no different. It can be several months before your new dog FULLY relaxes and becomes their “real self”. During this acclimation period, you should slowly expose your dog to the sights and sounds that will be a regular part of your routine together.

PANIC PANIC PANIC!

Don't PANIC! Almost everyone who gets a new pet has several days of worry and fear that they've made a rash decision and that they may be “in over their head”. This is really fairly normal and routine. It often takes several days to develop a routine and get acclimated to the basic responsibilities of a new pet. Seek help from a professional if you feel you are still struggling with any more serious issues as time passes.

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Empire of the Dog has been training NYC's friendliest pet dogs for over a decade. We are committed to family-friendly, humane progressive dog training. We focus on quick, creative solutions to your most vexing dog issues. Call us to discuss your dog's behavior.

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