

## How to introduce your dog to his new surroundings

**\*Go Home** Take your new dog straight home. The sooner you take him home, the sooner you can get him settled into his new life. Avoid going to new places, introducing your new dog to new people and taking trips to places like parks. Your new dog is stressed enough going home to a new place. You may see "going home" as a good thing, but it's still a stressor for your new dog to get used to.

**\*Leash Up** Keep your new dog on a leash at ALL times (during transport, outside time and inside time too). We suggest a 4-6 foot leash, please no flexi-leads. Having the leash on inside the home will help you be able to grab it in the event that something unexpected were to happen. Your new dog should be on a leash or confined area until the dog is comfortable with you and knows to listen to commands.

**\*Housetraining** When first going home, you should remain outdoors until the new dog urinates and ideally defecates. From day one the dog will learn where he is expected to go. Interrupt any accidents and redirect the dog immediately outside and clean up the mess. Confine him in a small area when you leave or can't keep a close eye on him and be sure to give him plenty of things to do. We also highly recommend crate training. Crate training uses a dog's natural instincts as a den animal; he sees it as his safe place. Please refer to "Crate Training" on the back of this paper.

**\*Obedience Training** Dog obedience classes are always a good way to help with bonding. Not only do they teach the dog, it teaches you how to work with your new dog.

**\*Introducing Dog to Dog** Keep both dogs on a loose leash and walk them side by side in a neutral area. Keep it as positive as possible; it's ok if they don't want to interact. If there is any aggressive behavior, give them some distance for a few minutes and reintroduce them. Do not force animals in an aggressive situation and remember this process could take a while. Closely observe body language; stiff, slow movements, growling and staring are signs that a dog feel threatened or aggressive. Never introduce high valued items (bones, toys, bed or food) when the dogs are just getting used to each other. Each dog needs their separate areas for everything at first. Crating or confining your new dog most of the time initially is an easy way to make sure that your existing animals have time to slowly get to know the each other before having to share resources. Be sure to feed the dogs in separate areas and pick up bowls when feeding time is over. In the beginning, you'll want to prevent over stimulation and keep play sessions short. Always give each dog your undivided attention as often as possible and give each dog down time to themselves. If your dogs react poorly often, please call Talbot Humane at 410-822-0107 or a professional trainer.

**\*Introducing Dog to Cat** Crating or confining your new dog most of the time initially is an easy way to make sure that your existing animals have time to slowly get to know the each other. When you let the new dog out, make sure that your cat has an easy out and high places to hide. Anywhere you can put a baby gate will help your cat to be able to get away if he feels threatened and make a more safe environment.