

Your New Dog

Congratulations on your new furry family member! It is wonderful that you've chosen to give a dog a home with your family. Below are some tips to help you integrate your new family member into your home.

Most dogs take a minimum of 2 weeks to fully adjust to their new life with a new family and home.

House Manners

Q: My last dog used to steal food off of our kitchen counter. How can I prevent my new dog from doing this?

A: Start your new dog off right by making counter surfing unappealing. Be extra careful about leaving things on the counter. Be sure to put all food away and out of reach of your new dog. If your dog gets used to delicious treats coming from you or his bowl then he will not feel the need to investigate an empty counter. The key is for the counter to be clean and not tempting to your new dog.

Q: My dog ate my remote and my slippers. How can I get him to stop eating my things?

A: Whether you have a new puppy or adult dog, be sure to “puppy proof” your house. Put things you don't want your dog to have up high. If you want to keep your dog from eating your slippers, put them away in your closet when you are not using them. Management here is key. Help your dog learn to behave in the house by making it easy for him.

You may want to also consider crate training or confining your new dog to a room when you are not home. The vast majority of dogs learn to love their crates and they are safe while you are away and you are both happy when you return. If your dog has been resting in his crate while you were out then you return to a safe dog and an undamaged house.

Q: My dog keeps jumping on me and my family. How do I get him to stop?

A: Friendly dogs often jump when they want to greet people. Pushing your dog away and yelling often only encourages your dog to jump more because he wants your attention. It will help to **teach your dog what you would like him to do** rather than correcting him for doing what you don't want him to do. Instead of jumping you can teach your dog to go to his bed, grab his favorite toy or sit when he is excited or wants attention.

When you come home from a long day at work, act calmly and move slowly. If your dog jumps, turn away and try to ignore him for a few seconds. Then ask your dog for a sit. Praise and pet your dog when he sits. If you are consistent, your dog will learn that sitting gets him the attention he wants.

Practice when you are not rushed. Practice coming in the door when you just saw your dog so it will be less exciting. Ask for a sit, then praise and pet. Have friends and family help you practice. You can also reward your dog with small treats for maintaining his sit when friends enter your house.

If you are worried your dog may knock someone over while you are working on training him you can use his leash. Attach the leash to your dog's collar and step on the leash at about the half way point. The leash can help restrain your dog while you request his sit. Your dog won't have the opportunity to jump on your friends and family while he is learning the correct way to greet people.

House Training

Q: My new dog is 5 years old and they told me he is house trained. Why is he peeing and pooping in my house?

A: Your new dog may be house trained but may not yet understand what it means to be house trained in his new house. He may need a little help to get him started in the right direction. Start by taking your new dog outside frequently, on leash. Remember, business first, then play. Take your dog directly outside to the area you wish him to eliminate in and wait there until your dog eliminates. Then praise and play.

If your dog is having trouble understanding where to use the bathroom, train him like you would a puppy. Take your dog outside every 15 minutes if he's been playing, every time he wakes up from a nap, after he eats, when he wakes up in the morning and before he goes to bed. Do this for the first 2 weeks and you should have a dog that happily uses the bathroom outside. Remember that small dogs have smaller bladders than big dogs and may need to eliminate more frequently.

Q: I caught my dog in the act of peeing on my favorite living room rug! How do I let my dog know he is wrong?

A: To prevent this in the future, be sure your dog is with you at all times until he gets used to the idea of eliminating outside. If you are in the kitchen, make sure your dog is with you. We don't want your new dog to learn that it is okay to sneak off and use the bathroom in another room. You can use baby gates to help section off rooms or put your dog on leash to keep him with you. Alternatively, you can crate your dog if you are not able to keep him with you.

If you catch your dog in the middle of eliminating, do not rub his nose in it. Rather, clap your hands or make a loud noise to distract your dog and then take him outside to finish. Be sure not to frighten your dog, we don't want your dog to be scared to eliminate in front of you.

Some dogs may need additional help with one of the items above or another issue entirely. All dogs learn at their own pace. If you are patient with your new family member and provide gentle guidance, you will be rewarded with wonderful companionship in the years to come.

CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP: info@micadogtraining.com

or Toll Free: 1- (888) – Mica Dog (642-2364)

Mica Dog Training LLC 2009 - "Positive and Practical" - www.micadogtraining.com