

# CHECK LIST FOR THE NEW PET OWNER

The first 2 weeks your new dog comes in your home will define your future. You and your friend may spend up to 15 years together. It's best to get educated and prepare yourself to do the right things. It's much easier to set the rules from day one than correct bad behavior later on. Your dog will love and trust you for giving them structure. Here's some basic guidelines and a do's and don'ts checklist for the well-trained pet owner.

- \* Plans and decisions about the dog's needs should be addressed, especially in a family environment. Who is going to feed the dog? Who is going to scoop poop? Who is going to walk the dog? Who's going to train?
- \* Do you have a training class or looked at Wags & Wiggles Training Schedule? What about a veterinarian?
- \* Have you puppy proofed (or dog proofed) your home? Loose electrical cords should be hidden, poisonous plants removed, fragile items on low coffee tables put away, possibly put child locks on cabinets for the smart dogs, find a hideway place up high or in a cabinet for the cat food and cat box (a spare bathroom is perfect), fence in backyard is in good shape and at least 5 feet for big dogs.
- \* Are you going to leave the dog alone at any time? Loose in house would not be a good idea until you know more about your friend. Puppies obviously need potty training first. Adult dogs new to your home may be a bit confused about when/where to potty too, even if previously potty trained. Baby gates, xpens, dog runs, crates are all good solutions. See crate training pamphlet.
- \* Did you buy a collar and leash? Martingale style collars will prevent escape and no choke chains since they can give a dog tracheal damage. Using a leash in the house can help teach right from wrong.  
Hand feed your dog at first to develop a tight bond. Consider a waist leash and tie down.

## DO'S AND DON'TS CHECKLIST FOR THE WELL TRAINED PET OWNER:

- Do set rules for the dog. Teach him to sit for the things he wants.
- Don't try to make up for other people's wrong doings by overindulging your dog.

- Do be nice to your dog every time he comes to you and teach him his name means look at you.
- Do be consistent with your actions and expectations. Set family rules that all can follow.
- Do provide an outlet for your dog's energies through physical exercise.
- Do keep your dog mentally fit through training on a regular basis.
- Do understand that your dog is a social animal and needs to get outside of the home.
- Do become your dog's leader.
- Do reward good behavior.
- Do make learning fun for your dog.
- Do use positive commands that teach your dog how to behave.
- Do spend lots of time with your dog.
- Do keep trying because every dog wants to be right.
- Do get outside help when you get stuck.
- Don't do anything unpleasant when your dog comes to you.
- Don't expect the dog to understand that sometimes he can do it and other times he can't.
- Don't expect your dog to lie around all day and be happy.
- Don't think your dog can't learn. All dogs can think and shouldn't be left to stagnate mentally.
- Don't lock up your dog because you haven't taken the time to train him.
- Don't expect the dog to obey if you aren't the leader.
- Don't give demand behavior attention or it will repeat.
- Don't yell commands at your dog or expect perfection.
- Don't use "NO". It's not a command or a fix. It's just an interrupter of the situation.
- Don't ruin your dog through loneliness.
- Don't give up when the going gets tough.
- Don't blame the dog