

Bringing Home Puppy

Welcome Your New Pet

At last! You've made all the preparations, and it's finally time to bring your new friend home. Give him the best welcome possible. With love, patience and mutual respect, he will feel like part of the family in no time.

Let Your Dog Adjust

Give the dog time to adjust to his new home. The dog is bound to feel insecure and frightened by a change in environment, and a pup may be homesick for his mother or litter-mates. Show him to his crate or bed, and where to find food and water. Then leave him alone to explore the new surroundings. When he wants to rest, let him, pups need their rest, make sure children know this...

Name Your Dog

Your dog will need a good name. Your breeder may have suggestions or even requirements for his AKC-registered name, but his call or informal name is up to you. Older adopted dogs can adjust quickly to a new name.

Make Introductions

Introduce your dog to your household slowly. Many pairs of hands petting him at once will only frighten him. Later, introduce him to neighbors, regular visitors and other family members. Give your dog a sense of who your - and your dog's - friends are.

Introduce Other Pets

Other companion animals in your home should also be properly introduced to your new dog or puppy. Don't expect them to get along right away, and don't try to force them to play together. Give them time to adjust to one another.

House-train

Whichever method of house-training you have chosen - crate training, bell or other - make sure that all members of the family enforce it consistently. Accidents happen, so have a procedure for clean-up.

Set House Rules

Teach your dog from the beginning what is and is not appropriate behavior. If something is "OK" today, your puppy will think it's OK forever. Make sure that every member of the family enforces the house rules. Consistency is the key to having a well-behaved pet. Never be heavy handed with a Boxer - they are very sensitive and hitting is never appropriate. Usually a very timely and firm HEY! or NO! or KNOCK IT OFF! (or whatever words you choose) works well - depending on the situation as to the choice of word. Many people tickle kitty and pups belly's and that illicit biting. Then they think play biting your hand is fun, but now you don't, even though your started it... and then they get in trouble and the breeder gets called because dog won't stop nipping... belly up is a position of trust not an invitation to tickle..give that vulnerable position a gentle belly rub and stop if he decides to play with his teeth upon your hand!

Feed a Good Diet - A carnivore has no need for carbohydrates, so if you do feed kibble, please give boxer real food as often as possible.

Exercise - info on age appropriate exercise in puppy pack- free play as pup desires, leash walking 5 mins per month of age a day

**Health Care - Vaccinate only when titers show it's needed - vet care when needed - flea, tick &HW preventatives are pesticides, find natural products - keep teeth clean with raw meaty bones- avoid raw hides - prevent obesity - Know Your Breed's Health Risks
Protect From Poisons - Be Alert to Changing Needs**

I.D. Your Dog

Your dog should wear an identification tag with your name, address and phone number at all times. This will increase the chances of your dog being returned to you if he is lost or runs away. Keep **Microchip** info current.

Provide Shelter

Your dog needs a sheltered area for the time he spends outside. The shelter should provide shade in summer and warmth in winter. Remember, a BOXER is a HOUSE dog. Time outside is for pleasure or nature calls only, not for living!

Watch the Heat

Dogs can succumb to heat stress in a matter of minutes, especially BOXERS! Do not leave your dog in the car when the temperature is high EVER! When your dog is outside, he should have a shady place to lay down and plenty of fresh, cool water.

Travel Safely

Keep your dog safe in the car by attaching the dog to a seat belt with a harness. Never let your dog ride in back of a pickup truck, or allow him to hang his head out of the car window while vehicle is moving.

Find a Pet-Sitter

Make arrangements for your dog's care when you go away. Have a friend or reliable pet-sitter come over to tend to the dog. Keep in mind, if you board dog at Vet or public daycare, they will require you to put more toxins via more vaccines and flea products into your dogs body before they will take in your dog... many don't even let you know upfront, that if they see ONE flea they will give flea product without your consent. You won't know until you pick up and see the change on the final bill. Pay attention to what they gave, as many are known to cause neurological issues in our dogs. (Vets do the same if your dog goes in for a dental cleaning or surgery, which blows my mind that they'd give any animal products that can affect the neurological system when dogs immune system will be suppressed during a surgery and recovery process.

Prepare for Disaster

Be prepared to care for your dog in the event of a disaster such as fire, flood, hurricane or earthquake. Make an emergency kit with clean water, food, and first aid equipment. Find out in advance if the evacuation shelters in your area allow animals. If not, develop alternatives.

Establish an Emergency Contact

Enlist a family member or friend to take care of your dog in the event of a sudden illness, hospitalization or other emergency. This person should ideally be someone your dog has spent some time with and is comfortable with. Leave a list of general care instructions in a safe place.

Make a Will

You should make arrangements for the safety and care of your pet in the event of your death. Don't assume that a family member will step in to take care of the dog.

Take Pictures

Of course, you will want a picture of your dog to grace your desk or to send as a Christmas card. More importantly, a current photo will be invaluable in the event that your dog is lost. Don't forget to send some to your breeder!!!!

Be a Friend - Play! Go On Walks Talk to Your Dog Give Treats Love Your Dog Switch Out Toys Find the "Spot" Leave the Radio On Plan Activities With Your Dog Give a Massage Make That Tail Wag or in your Boxers case, the whole body wag!

Give Your Time

You are the center of your dog's world. You may be tired after a long day at work, but your dog has spent the day anxiously awaiting your return. Reward that loyalty with your time. Pet him, talk to him, play with him, laugh with him. Let your dog know you value his company

Don't Let Your Dog Down

You aren't a dog owner just at Christmas, or on the weekends, or in the afternoon, or when you have spare time. You aren't a dog owner just when the dog is behaving, or when he's a cute fuzzy puppy, or when he's winning awards. **When you bring a dog into your family, that dog is yours for life. If you can't keep that commitment, don't make it. And once you've made it, don't break it. Your dog's life depends on you!**

Teach Basic Commands/ Socialize your dog to various situations and people, not necessarily other dogs!! Supervise Play With Children/ Give Your Dog a Job-practice NILIF (nothing in life is free) teach him to sit or down for that treat.

Be a Canine Ambassador: Respect Your Neighbors, Set a Good Example, Don't Leave Droppings, Respect Local Laws, Show Your Pride - let your dog know when you're proud of him, but let others know it too! ENJOY YOUR DOG!