

# Furry Friend's Rescue Organizations

## New Pet Owner's Survival Guide

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### Adopting a pet? You'll want to Read This!

After months of deliberation (or even just a few minutes, we won't judge!), you've finally decided that you're going to adopt a new pet. Congratulations! Bringing a rescue animal into your home is a very rewarding experience. We know this is an exciting time for you, but keep in mind:

#### **YOUR WORK STARTS NOW.**

Picking out your new pet is one of the best parts of adoption, and while you may want to jump right into the pet selection process, there are some things that should be considered before getting to that point.



Figure 1.

### Communicate with your Household

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Do you live with family members? What about roommates? No matter who you share your home with, everyone in the household needs to be on board about your decision to adopt- they're going to be living with your pet too!

Once that's taken care of, several things need to be discussed:

- Who is going to be responsible for what?
- What is everyone's schedule like? Is there going to be a time where no one will be home with the animal?
- If there are children in the house, who is going to supervise their time with the animal?

## Have another animal?

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This is something that needs to be taken into consideration when choosing your new pet! You need to make sure both animals are as comfortable as possible. Here are the Do's and Don'ts of introducing your current pet to your new one:

**DO:** Let your current pet meet it beforehand if possible.

- Don't just hope that your new pet will get along with your current one! Assess their personalities and see how they interact with each other to see if they'd be a good fit for your home.

**DON'T:** Introduce the animals inside the house.

- Taking dogs on a walk is a low-key activity that will allow them to get used to each other's presence in a neutral space.

**DO:** Let the animals meet with no distractions: no food, treats, or toys.

- We don't want them to compete with each other right away!

**DON'T:** Leave the animals unsupervised.

- This will ensure the animals are adjusting nicely, and you'll be able to separate them if things get too intense.

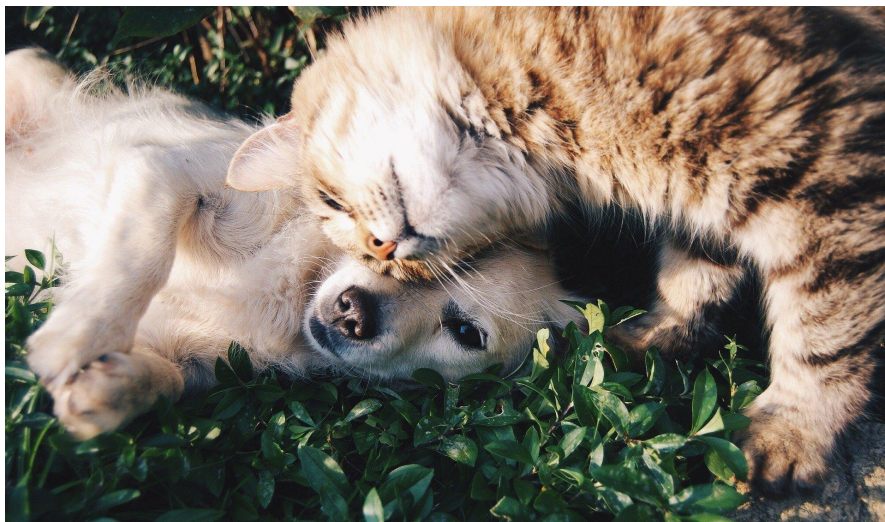


Figure 2.

## Know that it's going to take time.

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Figure 3.

By now, you're aware of how big of an adjustment this will be for you and your household- it's also important to realize that it's an even bigger one for your new pet! Your pet may not be comfortable right away, and that's completely okay.

It's going to take time for your new pet to get used to you and its new surroundings- until then, just do your best to make sure it's as comfortable as

possible! Watch their mannerisms closely during the first few days, and adjust your actions accordingly. Are they acting:

### Shy and Timid?

- Do a quiet activity in the same room, such as reading a book, and let the animal approach you first. Make sure there are no loud sounds in the room that would scare them or make them nervous.

### Excitable?

- Get out that energy! Take the animal outside by taking it for a walk around its new neighborhood or letting it run free in the yard. Can't go outside? Bring out the toys and have some bonding time with your new pet!

We hope these tips will help you feel a little more prepared in your adoption journey!

*Adopting from furry friends? Check out our [adoption criteria](#) to make sure your home is a good fit!*

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## How to Make Your Home Pet-Ready!

Ensuring your home is safe and ready for your new pet is a crucial step in the adoption process! We've all heard of baby-proofing your house before the baby comes, but what about pet-proofing? Pet-proofing is the process of changing up things in your home to not only make it safe for your new pet but also to ensure that your home has less of a chance of destruction!

### How do I pet-proof my home?



- Make sure you hide any electrical cords.
- If prohibiting access to certain parts of the house, determine how you're going to do that- we recommend baby gates!
- Move any smaller animals (think hamsters, birds, or reptiles), so they're far out of your new pet's reach.

Also, be sure to take notes on your animal's personality and mannerisms during the adoption process. By studying your pet's chewing habits and energy levels from the past, you can better determine how much pet-proofing your house may need.

### Set up an area in your home that's only for your new pet

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It's important for your new pet to feel comfortable in its new home! You can make the transition a little easier by ensuring that there's a designated space for your pet to go if it's feeling overwhelmed.

When creating a space for your new pet, consider the following:



Figure 4.

## Placement

- Find somewhere in your home that the pet can relax without a lot of interruptions. A guest room, an inside laundry room, or a nook under the stairs are good examples of this.

## Type of bed

- Will your animals be crate trained? If so, be sure there is a pet bed or blankets inside to maximize their comfort.

## Dogs are scent-sensitive

- Ask the previous caretaker if they have a blanket or a toy they can send home with your new animal. It can help comfort them!

## Purchase the necessary supplies

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This one may be obvious, but you'd be surprised how easy it is to forget things in the excitement of everything! While it's unnecessary to purchase *everything* before your animal comes home, you certainly won't regret thinking ahead when the day comes!



Figure 5.

## Food

- Your pet needs to eat! When first bringing your animal home, communicate with the previous caretaker to determine what your pet has been eating. While you don't necessarily have to continue using that specific food, it's best to incorporate old food into their new food so it won't upset their stomach. Always check with a veterinarian if you have concerns.

## Leash, Collar, Harness, and Identification Tags

- These will all prepare your pet to venture into the outdoor world safely! Ensure that an identification tag with your phone number is attached to its collar; this will allow people to contact you if they ever find your pet.

## Bed and Crate

- Make sure your pet has a comfortable space to relax! Find the correct sized bed, and maybe include soft blankets to lay on top of it. If choosing to crate train, make sure you get a large enough crate for your pet- they should have adequate room inside, whether laying down or sitting up. The bed should fit well in the crate to increase the animal's comfort level.

## Toys and Treats

- Don't forget about these! Toys will help your animal stay entertained while stimulating their mind, and playing with your animal is an excellent way to bond. Treats will help in the training process, and it's always nice to give your animal a treat every once in a while!



Figure 6.

We've included a checklist to help you out- happy shopping!

## NEW PET CHECKLIST

### The Basics:

- Food/treats
- Food/water bowls
- Leash/collar/identification tags
- Bed
- Crate
- Toys
- Pooper scooper or baggies
- Crate

### Grooming:

- Dog-friendly toothbrush/toothpaste
- Nail trimmers
- Dog Brush
- Shampoo

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## 7 Tips for New Pet Parents



Figure 7.

Everything's coming together! You've done countless hours of research on rescue organizations, your family is on board, and you know exactly where that dog crate is going to go. So why does it still feel like you're unprepared?

**Here's the good news:** no one is going to feel completely prepared. We can still try to get you as ready as you can be!

Here are some of our favorite tips for new pet owners:

### 1. Be prepared to put a lot of time and attention into your new animal.

This may be one you already know, but there's a reason we put it first! A lot of first-time pet owners can underestimate the amount of time and energy an animal takes. Having a pet is fun and rewarding, but be aware that it will need frequent exercise, socialization, and attention.

### 2. Don't allow your pet to access the entire house right away.

You want your pet to feel at home, so it may be tempting to let your new pet roam free to explore the house on its own right away. However, this may not be the best approach- this is a new animal, after all, and you never know how it will react in a new environment.



When introducing your pet to its new environment, you first want to emphasize where the pet should go to relax and feel safe, such as a crate or bed. After your pet gets accustomed to this area, feel free to give it a full tour of the house- just be sure not to leave it unsupervised! Utilize baby gates, pens, and your pet's crate to limit access to parts of the house where it can potentially cause damage.

### 3. Your pet needs time to adjust.

This is going to be a huge adjustment for both you and your new animal. Being in a new place can be overwhelming, and it may cause your new pet to be shy, timid, or scared. Although it may be tempting to smother your new pet with cuddles and attention, the best thing you can do is give your pet space! It will come to you when it feels comfortable, and it's okay if it doesn't happen overnight. Just make your new pet as comfortable as you can, and things will fall into place.



Figure 8.

### 4. Assume the animal isn't trained.

Assume that your new pet thinks your entire house is their new potty zone. This is a new environment after all- they're not sure where they are, let alone where they should go potty! Even if you know they've had former house-training, it's best to treat them as if they have no idea what it is.

#### **Potty Training Basics:**

- Keep the animal confined in a crate or pen when you're not around to supervise it.
- Take the animal out of confinement frequently, immediately bringing it to its approved potty area.
- Give it a treat every time it goes potty in the correct space.
- When gone for more extended periods of time, utilize potty pads to give it an approved area to relieve itself.

Visit our website's [Behavior and Training](#) page for a comprehensive list of resources on behavior, positive reinforcement, and even more helpful training tips!

### 5. Come up with a routine.

In the first few weeks of having your new pet home, it's crucial to establish a routine with your new pet. This will not only help you get into the groove of





having a new animal to care for in your day to day life but will also allow your new pet to get used to you and its new environment, helping it settle in faster!

## 6. Schedule a veterinary appointment ASAP

Do your research on veterinarians in your area and schedule an appointment soon after bringing your animal home. Although most rescue organizations usually cover animals' basic health needs while they're in their care, it's essential to establish a relationship with a vet quickly. This ensures that if any health issues arise, you know you have a vet at hand that is already familiar with your animal.

## 7. It's okay if you need help!

Adopting a new animal is a lot of work! Just know that there are many resources out there to help you out on your new journey, and feel free to refer to this blog series whenever you need to. Don't be afraid to ask a professional such as a trainer for help if you feel overwhelmed; that's what they're here for!

Happy adopting!



Figure 9.

## Facebook Post

**FURRY FRIENDS  
RESCUE ORGANIZATION**

**NEW PET  
OWNER'S  
SURVIVAL GUIDE**



Adopting a new pet and don't know where to start? Check out our New Pet Owner's Survival Guide: a blog series created to prepare you for the arrival of your new furry friend!