



www.njsheltierescue.org

Taking Your New Dog Home

Congratulations on adopting your new family member. We have prepared this list to help you and your dog adjust to living together. Please remember that you, your family, and your home, are all very new to your dog; allowing your dog the time to adjust is imperative if you hope to achieve a lifetime of love and friendship. Your new dog is experiencing the effects of a tremendous amount of stress. It is well documented that stress affects behavior, and it is important that you interact with your new dog in a positive way to insure a successful relationship.

This list was made as a guideline for you to follow – if any questions should arise that are not covered by this list, please feel free to contact us at Shetland Sheepdog Placement Services of New Jersey. Please remember that it is crucial that you contact us immediately at the slightest hint of a problem. The most effective way to alleviate a potentially serious situation is to address the issue at its earliest onset. The dog's adjustment to your home should get a little better each day. Call us if any problem arises that gets worse instead of better. An inappropriate behavior should not be repeated if at all possible...remember to ask for our help.

- ◆ Introduce your new dog to the resident dog on neutral territory. Do not have a group of people standing around...just you and your new foster dog, and another person and your present dog. Talk calmly and don't attempt to hurry the introduction.
- ◆ Go for a walk together (one person for each dog) and make sure that each person is focusing on the dog that they are handling. Take treats and reward appropriate behavior. DO NOT make verbal or physical corrections for inappropriate behavior, and make sure that you do not pull back on the dog's leash.
- ◆ When you feel comfortable enough to go into your home with both dogs do so naturally – do not anticipate any problem.
- ◆ Do not overwhelm your new dog by having more than family members present when you arrive home.
- ◆ Bring your dog into your home and leave him/her to explore at his/her own pace. Do not show your dog around, your dog will investigate the home when s/he feels comfortable doing so.
- ◆ Until you feel comfortable, keep your dog's leashes on in the house. This can be helpful if you need to separate them for a short "time out".
- ◆ Do not feed your dogs together. Each dog should have their own dish and each dish should be placed on opposite ends of the room where they eat. Do not allow the dogs to investigate the other dog's food dish. Once the meal is over, pick up the dishes. Never feed your dogs without supervision. Crating your new dog when they eat is recommended.



www.njsheltierescue.org

- ◆ Do not leave your dogs alone together until you are completely comfortable with their acceptance of each other. Use a crate and be safe.
- ◆ Do not allow either dog to mount the other in the beginning. Mounting is not sexual – it can be caused by nervousness, dominance, or can simply be play behavior. Divert the behavior by calling the dogs to you, ask them to sit in an upbeat tone of voice, and then give them a treat.
- ◆ Do not have guests come to the home to meet the new dog.
- ◆ Do not grab at, push, or pull your dog.
- ◆ Do not grab your dog's collar.
- ◆ Keep your home calm and quiet.
- ◆ If you have children, do not allow them to bring their friends to the house until the dog is completely comfortable with your family.
- ◆ Never leave a child alone with your dog.
- ◆ When taking your dog for a walk, do not grab at the dog's collar. Talk to your dog, and calmly place the dog's lead on. We recommend that you ask the dog to sit in an upbeat tone of voice before attaching the leash.
- ◆ Set a routine for feeding and for outside time with your dog and stick to it.
- ◆ Do not shake your finger, hand or any object at your dog.
- ◆ Do not corner your dog – always give him/her an escape route.
- ◆ Do not yell at anyone in the house, including and especially the dog.
- ◆ If your dog is going to sleep with you, talk to him/her when you are getting into bed.
- ◆ If you get up during the night, talk to the dog – announce yourself. Your dog can and will startle easily during these first few days. It is a good idea to leave a light on in the house so if you get up during the night, your dog can more quickly identify you.
- ◆ Do not rough-house play with your dog.
- ◆ Keep a running dialog going with your dog whenever possible. The more your dog hears your voice, the more your dog will look forward to hearing it. Always talk to your dog in a pleasant tone of voice.
- ◆ If your dog gets overly excited during play, stop playing. Allow your dog to calm down and re-group.
- ◆ Shelties can make lots of noise during play, growling and barking being only part of the noise. Listen to your dog. You will know his 'play' noises and his 'alert' noises. Learn to know the difference.
- ◆ Never challenge your dog. If your dog growls at you remain calm; look away and turn your back on your dog.....then call us IMMEDIATELY!



www.njsheltierescue.org

- ◆ Leave your dog alone when s/he is eating. Do not stand over him/her, do not attempt to put anything into his/her bowl. Do not attempt to pick up the bowl while the dog is still next to the food dish.
- ◆ Feed your dog in a low traffic area to avoid having people walking around when your dog is eating.
- ◆ Your new dog is under a great deal of stress. Stress causes dogs to drink more water and urinate more frequently. Remember to take your new dog outside many times throughout the day. Accidents are to be expected, so do NOT correct your dog if they relieve themselves in the house. CALL US IF YOUR DOG HAS MORE THAN ONE ACCIDENT.
- ◆ Do not attempt to take a toy away from your new dog. Allow the dog to bring it to you and always trade for something better.
- ◆ Young children should never be allowed to walk your dog. Another dog, squirrel, cat or car backfire can spook your dog and your child will lose control of the lead.
- ◆ Call Shetland Sheepdog Placement Services of New Jersey IMMEDIATELY if your dog should ever get lost. We have many contacts in the dog community and can help relocate your dog.
- ◆ Do not take your new dog into crowded areas – i.e., malls, parks or stores.
- ◆ Do not take your new dog to a dog park.
- ◆ Always leave identification on your dog.
- ◆ Never leave your dog outside unattended.
- ◆ Never leave your home unless your dog is inside the house and safe.
- ◆ Never tether your dog and leave him unattended.
- ◆ Never leave anything on your dog's neck, including a collar, when your dog is in their crate – a collar can get caught on something and choke the dog.
- ◆ Never put 2 dogs in the same crate.
- ◆ Your new dog will be looking to you for guidance. A calm and easy introduction into your family will make your new dog feel welcome and unafraid.
- ◆ Talk calmly and confidently to your new dog, using his/her name whenever possible.
- ◆ NEVER use any type of aversive training collars on your dog such as a choke, prong, or electric shock. Should your dog pull on the leash give us a call and we will give you some positive tips.
- ◆ Always divert undesirable behavior in a positive manner. A useful tool is to condition your dog/s to come to you when you shake a plastic food container filled with yummy bite-sized treats (no bigger than the size of a piece of kibble). As soon as you observe inappropriate behavior, shake the container (dog/s come running to you), ask the dog/s to sit, praise with your words, and give a flavorful treat. REMEMBER, you must first teach



www.njsheltierescue.org

the dog/s to come to you when they hear the sound of shaking treats. You can not expect to get their attention when they are over-stimulated unless they are conditioned to respond to the sound when things are calm.