

TAKING YOUR BOXER HOME

DO'S AND DO NOTS

- ✓ Make sure all poisonous household items are securely stored out of the dog's reach. This includes under cabinet, the basement and garage.
- ✓ Move or preferably remove all poisonous plants. ANY floor plant should be removed from the Boxer's area at least initially.
- ✓ If the Boxer can reach "it"; "it" stands a chance of being chewed on.
- ✓ Decide on a call name and use it consistently. The name given to the Boxer in rescue is for our records and will be maintained that way, however you are free to rename the Boxer whatever you want. Remember, though, we do not know how many names this Boxer has had. If you do give the Boxer a new name, try to keep it simple and remember to be patient and use their new name positively.
- ✓ Limit ALL visitors for the first week. Give the Boxer a chance to settle in and get a routine established. Keep in mind that the Boxer has been uprooted from the secure environment they knew (foster home) and will be lost and unsure. Additional people swarming them can make them tense or overly protective. If you must have visitors, then secure the Boxer in his crate before the visitors arrive.
- ✓ Do NOT try to take neighborhood walks, make trips to the dog park or pet store for that first week. Practice leash walking around your yard to give the Boxer a chance to get used to you and to walking with you. Be sure to make the Boxer sit and wait upon approaching ANYONE new; human or canine.
- ✓ Establish the feeding routine and stick to it. If the Boxer is used to eating in his/her crate, continue that practice. If there are other dogs or cats in the household, do not let them eat together as the Boxer MIGHT be food protective. Keep in mind that many of our dogs had to fight for food at some point in their lives and they may feel threatened by another dog eating within close proximity. Please use the food that was being used in the foster home. If you want to switch your Boxer to another premium dog food, do so gradually over a two week period; mixing the new and old foods.
- ✓ Keep the new Boxer on lead in the house for that first week, to establish housebreaking routines. It will take at least that long for you to understand and establish the signals to go outside between you. Do NOT use a doggy door initially as you will not be sure that the Boxer is accomplishing the goal of telling you when they need to go outside.
- ✓ Do not leave the Boxer alone with small children, do not disturb them when they are asleep and keep their crate accessible to them at all times. Keep in mind that your family are strangers and let the Boxer integrate into the household at their own rate.
- ✓ If you have other pets, remember they KNOW you, and KNOW your routine. Do not expect the new Boxer to come into your home with the same levels of understanding. You have to start from scratch and establish your rules and your understandings of the dog. The foster home has established a base-line, but that will not automatically transfer to your home; you have to make it work for you, also.