

TIPS FOR NEW FOSTER HOMES

Keep the new dog isolated from your other animals for a few days unless you know the dog is up to date on its vaccinations. Shelter dogs especially should be kept isolated and not allowed free access to your house until you've had them vetted.

PREPARATION:

Prepare a crate in an area gated off from the rest of your dogs. You want them to have a quiet, non-stressful place to rest when you first get them home. JRT's get particularly stressed in the chaotic atmosphere of a shelter or pound since they are sight, sound and scent sensitive. It must create an incredible sensory overload for them. Peace and quiet will seem like heaven!

You want the dogs to get used to the smell and sound of each other before you try to introduce them. Keep the dogs separated for a couple of days but able to smell, hear and see each other.

BRINGING THE DOG HOME:

Before bringing the dog into your house, take him for a little leash walk to relieve himself and start to relax. If you have a fenced yard and can let him run around in the yard (w/out your other dogs present), you can observe him.

LEAVE THE LEASH ON him while you're letting him explore the yard (so you can catch him if needed – he/she may be hard to catch at first).

ALWAYS SUPERVISE the dog when in your yard.

INTRODUCING NEW DOG AND OLD DOG:

After the dogs have had a couple of days to smell, hear and see each other separated by a gate, it's time to introduce them. (Don't worry about a little barking and growling over the fence – this is normal JRT behavior)

Takes 2 people:

ON LEASH (keep the leash loose and avoid tightening up on the leash), take the dogs for a little walk together. I recommend the RESIDENT DOG be walked by the other person so you don't encourage him to guard the owner. Keep them well separated at first and as they relax you can move closer together.

When they are relaxed – stop and let them sniff one another (avoid letting the leashes get tangled, avoid tightening up on the leash).

Polite doggie greetings are butt and crotch sniffs. LET THEM SNIFF!

GOOD SIGNS

- sniff and ignore the other dog and go sniff the ground/pee/yawn (these are calming signals between dogs)
- Sniff and do a “play bow” which invites the other dog to play.
- Other normal reactions:
 - male will sniff female and try to mount her (or vs. vs.!!)
 - female will snap and say “get off me buster!!”
 - don't be worried by a little growling and posturing. The louder the exchange the more it is probably a bluff and not dangerous. Let the dogs work it out. As long as there is NO BLOOD or “pitbull” holds – it's OK.

IN A FENCED AREA:

Once they seem OK on leash – let the more submissive dog off leash to continue the doggie introductions.

Finally – if they seem to be relaxing around each other (or ignoring one another) let both dogs off leash.

If a loud, noisy “fight” breaks out – count to 10 and see what happens. Usually the submissive dog will roll over on their belly and indicate they yield. Remember—the noisier and scarier it sounds, the safer it actually is. **IF THERE IS NO BLOOD – NO HARM DONE. LET THE DOGS WORK IT OUT!**

BAD SIGNS:

- Hard stares at the other dog w/ deep rumbling growls, tense body, The SOFTER and more TENSE it is, the more DANGEROUS it is.
- Immediate lunge for the jugular and a “hold” with NO WARNING posturing.
- Call Kathy – it probably won’t work to have you foster this dog.

INTRODUCTIONS OVER:

If all has gone well, the dogs will probably either ignore one another for a few weeks or invite play from the other dog. You can then lead them both into the house – usually they will be friendly by then.

KEEP THE NEW DOG on a dangling leash or short leash so you can grab it if needed. DO NOT GIVE THEM FREE RUN OF THE HOUSE AT THIS POINT.

MALES will probably attempt to “mark” see TIP: URINE MARKING

TIPS:

HOUSEBREAKING:

Assume your foster is NOT housebroken. Put him/her on a regular feeding and potty break schedule (see below):

SOLUTION:

Avoid free feeding your dog.

Schedule your terrier’s mealtimes (usually once or twice a day). If you free feed, you will NEVER know when the dog has to eliminate. Put the food down at a set time and remove anything that is not eaten within 10 minutes.

Use a crate in the early stages of housebreaking.

A typical workday schedule for an adult terrier needing housebreaking might be:

7:00 am – rise and take Fido on a walk (or in yard) to eliminate – pee and poop.

Free play time in the house if they do their business – back in the crate if they don’t.

7:30 am – feed Fido **IN THE CRATE** and crate him until ready to take him out (about 30 minutes)

8:15 am – out for a quick pee, back in the crate or in a safe room and owner off to work.

If possible – mid-day walk and play time.

5:00 p.m. arrive home – take Fido out immediately for a pee and poop and walk/playtime.

5:30 p.m. feed dog **IN THE CRATE** and while you’re fixing dinner.

6:30 p.m. – out for a quick pee

Evening – spend time w/ Fido – playing, snuggling.

Just before bed: walk Fido – pee and poop

Fido to bed **IN THE CRATE**. Maybe w/ a little bed time cookie.

ALWAYS GIVE YOUR DOG A REALLY SPECIAL TREAT (piece of chicken, steak or burger) AND LOTS OF PRAISE WHEN THEY DO THEIR BUSINESS IN THE PROPER LOCATION.

URINE MARKING:

Marking is **NOT** a housebreaking issue but typical male dog behavior. Often a dog that marks is in competition w/ another dog in the household or feels insecure about his position in the household. Neutering a dog can help lower the incidence of marking.

Solution

Use a bellyband or disposable diaper as a belly band to protect the furniture from marking. (I use Food Lion Ultra thin disposable diapers, size #6.) Do not open the diaper but wrap it around the dogs belly like a band and fasten w/ a piece of 2” masking tape. See picture below. Change when soiled. Remove when taking the dog out for a potty break and replace whenever he is in the house.

If a dog is marking – do not let him sleep with you, do not allow him on the furniture. You don't want him to think the furniture belongs to him in any way.



FEEDING/TOYS/BONES

Avoid leaving toys and bones out.

These can precipitate fights. Give all chewies, toys, to each dog **IN THEIR CRATE**. At first you may want to play w/ each dog separately until you see if they are willing to share with one another.

Feed multiple dogs **IN THEIR CRATE**:

This does 2 things

- Helps crate train the dog (making the crate a nice place)
- Avoids food guarding: (rescue dogs may have lived on the “edge” for a while and may guard food items from other dogs.)

CRATE TRAINING:

Avoid allowing the new dog free access to your home – assume they are **NOT** housebroken properly. Your job is to help housebreak them.

If the dog doesn't like the crate:

FEED in the crate

TREAT in the crate

SLEEP in the crate

Start out slow

Toss a special treat in the crate to entice the dog into it – **LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN**

Repeat a few times.

Toss in a treat and close the door briefly and re-open almost immediately

Repeat a few times

Toss in a treat – close the door for longer and longer periods – always letting the dog out the **INSTANT** they are quiet. Do **NOT** let them out if they are fussing.

DOG HATES THE CRATE:

If the dog is terrible in the crate at first – tie the dog to you so that it must follow you wherever you go in the house (and you can keep an eye on him/her).

Tie the dog to a heavy object **NEAR** you (or tie to you) as you watch TV, work on your computer or read.

Tie the dog (on an 18” leash) next to your bed at night (with a nice comfy dog bed or blanket to sleep on).

Confine the dog to a safe, easily cleaned room while you are gone: Laundry room, bathroom, etc.

Some dogs will tolerate an X-pen (4' X 4' Exercise pen available at Petsmart or Petco). Put a small crate or his bed in the x-pen. You can paper the entire X-pen and “paper train” him this way.