

Using the collar & leash properly With a new shelter dog

Feng Shui with Fido™ Philosophy: Adopting a new shelter dog is a fantastic thing to do. Congratulations! The introduction into a new home can sometimes be scary for a new dog. Using the leash and collar properly to provide a sense of security can make the process of adjusting to a new home easier. Remember, just because your new dog is not a puppy does not mean he knows how and where to go to the bathroom. Using the leash is the best way to guide him around your new home and will create a bond and trust. Does this mean keep your new dog on a leash at all times? NO, of course not. It means the leash is a great tool for training and gaining trust while you get to know each other. Here's how to use it to create a great relationship.

get: In general the following items help to introduce your new shelter dog into your home.

1. A 6ft flat nylon or leather leash.
2. A baby gate or corral (aka exercise pen)
3. 2 bowls for food and water
4. Treats: To teach your dog a fun, name recognition game and how to come!
5. A ball for fetch. A great way to get ya-ya's out, before you leave the house and to create a calm dog!



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6. I.D. tag with your dog's name, address and phone number.
7. Download the Feng Shui with Fido™ training tip "How to reprimand your dog: housebreaking".

use: The leash and collar allow you to connect with your new dog. Use it in your daily routine with your dog for short periods of time. By using the leash to guide your dog through the steps of daily activities assures him how to please you. It also takes away the impulse to coax, mime, and repeat yourself over and over again, while trying to achieve an understanding with your dog. Remember, relationships take time and your dog is looking to you for guidance, so don't look to your dog to get it.

where: Use the leash in your daily life and to train a shelter dog to become familiar to his new surroundings.

1. Using the leash to show your dog the way outside to go potty, from different areas of your house.
2. Before answering the front door, put your dog on a leash. Ask him to 'sit' and 'stay' and then answer the door.
3. Introducing your dog to new guests and children.
4. Guiding him into a crate or gated area for training purposes.
5. Taking him out of the crate or gated space and



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leading him outside to go potty.

6. Going for a great walk.

when: Using the leash properly in your daily life takes a little foresight.

1. Get several leashes and keep one by the front door. Put your dog on a leash before guests ring the doorbell and it will teach your new dog not to bolt out the front door.
2. Keep an extra leash near the gated space and or crate. This allows you to take your new dog outdoors on a leash while saying 'outside' in a happy voice and clearly shows him where you want him to go.
3. Take a few minutes a day to walk your dog on a leash around your house. This helps bond your new dog to you in a calm, happy way. Read a magazine, pay bills, or walk around your house. When sitting down, gently lift up on the leash and say 'sit', repeat this until he does. This helps prevent a dog from developing a hyper active behavior associated to the leash which can get created overtime by only using the leash for going on walks.

why: The leash gives your new dog reassurance and helps you guide him and figure out a routine. Dogs learn through patterns, not just verbal repetition. The leash helps connect a word to an action.



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how: Putting on a leash sounds easy enough. However, annoying behaviors can develop by doing this simple act the wrong way. Many dogs learn to get really excited when seeing a leash. Some jump up and go crazy with excitement, others run away when they see the leash. You have the power to make it an easy, good thing.

1. Crouch down and have your dog approach you, rather than going at your dog to put on a leash. Your body language of crouching down is helpful in telling a new dog it's safe to approach.
2. Never chase or yell at a dog telling him to come to you.
3. Be smarter than your dog. Silently and calmly go up to your dog and re-direct him to sit with a happy voice and put on the leash. Or get your dog to approach you and put on the leash.

Free time loose in the house:

Of course, your new dog should have free time loose in the house! Just make sure it jives with your daily schedule. In other words, make sure he has gone potty, been fed, walked and then you can have snuggle time that's calm. Too much freedom for a brand new dog, given all at once, can create problems. Creating positive boundaries is a great way to organize your life with your new dog. It helps YOU and your new dog bond, develop trust, love and have peace in the home.

