



# Pre-adoption advice: Dogs



Woof!



We're delighted you're interested in adopting a dog from the Scottish SPCA. To make this transition as smooth as possible for you and your new companion, here is some advice to help you prepare:



- Register with a vet and make sure to ask about out of hours care.
- Although your dog will come with 4 weeks free PetPlan insurance, prepare for when this ends to ensure your dog is covered for future medical and behavioural needs.
- Agree family rules before bringing your dog home so you can be consistent from day one. Agree on topics such as toilet training, where the dog will sleep, where they will be allowed in the house etc.

#### WE ADVISE TAKING YOUR DOG STRAIGHT HOME ON DAY OF ADOPTION

to minimise any potential stress of the transition into a new home so make sure to shop for the essential items before your adoption day. **This includes:**

Bed and blankets

Food

(our teams can tell you about their current diet)

Toys

Collar, harness and lead

(our teams can help with sizing)

Grooming equipment

Enrichment/puzzles

Dog tag

(this is a legal requirement)

Food and water bowls

Poo bags





- If you have any questions about their current diet or the sizing, chat to our team and we can help you make sure you're all set for when your dog arrives.
- If you plan on changing their diet, ask the centre what food the dog is on now. We recommend purchasing some of that and your new food, with the aim to gradually change your dog's diet to not upset their tummy.
- If your dog won't be allowed in certain areas of your home like upstairs, consider getting a baby gate for stairs before the dog arrives to set the expectations for them from the first day.
- Check you have no dangerous or toxic items within reach such as human food, plants or cleaning products.
- Decide on a safe space for your dog and what this looks like. This should be a bed, den, pen or open crate in a quiet area where they won't be disturbed.
- Set up an eating and drinking area in a quiet space away from any busy areas of the house.
- Consider how you are transporting your dog home. If travelling by car, your dog will need to be safely restrained e.g. crate, dog guard, harness attachment. If you are using public transport, discuss this with us beforehand to make a plan.
- If you have another dog, cat, or other animal, please discuss this with us so we can let you know the best way to introduce them or keep them safe.
- Make a plan for the first few days to keep things quiet and predictable at home. For example, run any errands and get provisions in so that the dog won't be left alone for the first few days. We also recommend avoiding visitors for the first week or so to allow your dog time to bond with you.



For advice on how best to take care of your dog, please visit our website:

[www.scottishspca.org/advice/dogs/](http://www.scottishspca.org/advice/dogs/)