Settling Your Dog into a New Home
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Getting Your Dog Settled Post Move

Moving into a new home is an exciting milestone, but it can be a challenging time for your furry friend. Dogs thrive on routine and familiarity, so they might struggle with a new environment to begin with. By easing them into their new home and giving them plenty of support, you can help them adjust in no time.

How long can it take a dog to get settled into a new environment?

Adjusting a dog to a new home can vary in how long it takes, based on their age, temperament, and past experiences. For some dogs, it might take just a few days to feel at home, while others may need weeks or even months. You can help by being patient and observant, providing the support your pet needs throughout this transition period.

Behaviour you may see from your dog in the first few days

In those first few days following the move, your dog might show some signs of stress or anxiety. These may include:

- **Excessive barking, howling or whining**: Your dog may sound off more than usual, as if to say, ‘what are we doing here?’
- **Pacing or restlessness**: They might have trouble settling down and may pace around the house.
- **Changes in appetite**: Some dogs may eat less or more than usual if they are feeling stressed, or even chew things you would rather they left alone.
- **Increased clinginess or withdrawal**: Your dog might be a bit more needy than before or react the opposite way and go off on their own for a while.

Try not to worry as these are all typical behaviours during the adjustment period. It is quite natural for a dog to be stressed in a new environment. Your doggo just needs a bit of love and patience from you to get through it.

Easing them into their new home

If you are wondering how to calm a dog in a new environment, you can start by making it as comfortable and familiar as possible. Using some simple strategies will make it easier for them.

Create a familiar environment

Bring along as many of your dog's favourite items as possible, including their bed, toys, and blankets. Having well-loved objects and scents around is comforting and provides a sense of continuity. Setting up their space like it was in your previous home can help them feel more secure. If you can, stay at home for a few days with your pup, as dogs love having their pack around them.

Let them explore

All those new smells and sights to explore can prove irresistible for dogs. Allow your dog to

sniff around their new surroundings at their own pace. Gradual exposure to different areas of the house can help them feel more at home.

Give them time and space

Avoid overwhelming your furry friend with too much fuss or activity. Instead, maintain a calm and relaxed atmosphere, even if you are feeling a bit stressed yourself with the move. Keep their routine consistent, including feeding times, walks, and playtime. A bit of stability goes a long way.

Signs your dog is adjusting to their new home

As your dog begins to feel more at home, you'll notice some little clues in their behaviour. Signs that your dog is settling in include:

- **Relaxed body language**: Your dog appears more relaxed, and you see their tail wagging again.
- **Routine engagement**: All the fun stuff they enjoy is back on the agenda – like playing with toys and the rest of the family or exploring the yard.
- **Healthy appetite**: Your dog is tucking into meals with gusto just like they used to.
- **Restful sleep**: They sleep comfortably in their bed and rest without signs of distress.
- **Exploration**: Your dog explores their new environment with curiosity and confidence.

These are all reassuring signs that this once strange place is becoming home sweet home for your dog.

Moving can be a stressful experience for dogs, but with patience, understanding, and a few proactive steps, you can help make the transition smoother for your pup. Once you create a familiar and supportive environment, allowing them to explore at their own pace in the time and space they need, your dog will be adjusting to a new home before you know it. For more information on how to care for your dog, check out our blog.

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