



# happy tails dog training

*Happy dogs, Happy homes!*

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## New Dog Tips

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Congratulations on your new family member! Adding a new dog to your family is an exciting and emotional experience. Whether you have chosen an adolescent or adult dog or a puppy, you will want to get things started off on the right paw! Here are a few ideas to get you started off right with your new canine companion.

Play the Name Game:

- 🐾 To help your dog learn his name and respond to all family members, play a game to reinforce the response to the name.
- 🐾 To play, gather a handful of yummy treats, such as pieces of grilled chicken or liver treats. Say your dog's name in a happy voice and when he/she looks at you, give a treat, repeat this ten times in a row.
- 🐾 Play the game three times a day for a week and your dog will always respond to his/her name!

Learn what motivates your dog:

- 🐾 Food and treats; what are his favorites?
- 🐾 Toys and play time; which does he find the most fun?
- 🐾 Attention, snuggling and petting
- 🐾 Going for walks
- 🐾 Learning new behaviors and tricks; does he have any special tricks he loves to perform?
- 🐾 Or the best yet: ALL of the above!
- 🐾 Use these items and activities to establish a bond with your new dog by enjoying time together playing, walking or training.

Establish a schedule for dog-related chores and activities:

- 🐾 Who will take your dog to his manners training classes?
- 🐾 Who will walk your dog in the morning? At night?
- 🐾 Who is responsible for feeding the morning meal? The evening meal?
- 🐾 Who is in charge of cleaning up the yard after your dog?
- 🐾 Set aside time for all family members to play with your new dog. Dogs love to play and having play time will ensure your dog feels right at home quickly!

Praise your dog for proper offered behaviors. Even before you attend training classes or hire a private trainer, your dog will naturally sit, lie down, make eye contact with you, and come over to you. When these behaviors occur, offer happy praise and petting to let your new dog know these are the RIGHT behaviors to do around you to gain attention and other "good stuff."