BRINGING A NEW DOG HOME

Congratulations!

We're so happy you chose to start a new journey with your new dog.

Welcoming a new dog into your home is an exciting experience, but it's important to set clear boundaries and establish routines from the start. This guide will help you ensure a smooth transition for both you and your new companion.

Make sure you have these items before bringing your new dog home:

- **Crate** (for training and safe space)
- **Collar** (martingale, slip leash, or flat collar)
- **Leash** (for controlled movement and safety)

Rules to Follow

Following these guidelines will help your dog adjust and build a strong foundation of trust and structure:

- **Crate when unsupervised:** Always crate your dog when you're away from home, at night, or when you cannot keep an eye on them.
- **Keep the leash and collar on inside:** This allows for easy redirection if necessary. Some dogs do well with the leash dragging, while others may need to be tethered to you.
- **Feed meals in the crate:** This helps create a positive association with the crate and prevents resource guarding as your pup has its own space to eat comfortably.
- **Leash walk outdoors, even in a fenced yard:** This ensures safety and helps establish good behavior. You can transition away from the leash eventually, but to start, maintain this boundary.
- **Supervise your dog in the yard at all times.**
- **Feed separately from other animals and children:** The crate is a safe and controlled space for meals.
- **Limit access to privileges:** Wait until you establish trust before allowing privileges like furniture access.
- **Handfeed meals through training:** This helps build a bond, reinforces good behavior, and creates a healthy relationship.

- **Engage in interactive play:** Games like tug, fetch, frisbee, and flirt pole play help strengthen your connection with your new dog.

By following this guide, you'll help your new dog settle in and set them up for long-term success in your home. If you have any questions or need additional support, don't hesitate to reach out to a professional trainer (listed on our website under resources) or give us a call. We will do all we can to support you in your journey and set your family up for success!