

Most dog homes will be happy to allow you to take in a blanket a few days before you collect the pup to place it in its familiar bed as this will hold some of the smell that will make the pup feel more at ease. You can also put a similar sized teddy with the pup so that it acts like a litter mate that he can snuggle into. You may also find for older dogs that a piece of your clothing / blanket can be placed in the bed for familiarisation.

**GOLDEN RULE** – do not be tempted to approach the dog if he is crying. You may think it's just for one night, as he is young and scared, but if you approach the dog when he is crying he will learn that crying gets your attention and it will happen every night.



# YOU & your new DOG



# THE FIRST NIGHT

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## THE FIRST NIGHT

**W**hen you get your new dog home for the first time you need to start off as you mean to go on. Have some rules set out already so that everyone in the household knows what the dog can and cannot do. For example, if he is not allowed on furniture, upstairs, fed from the table, etc. If you have a dog old enough to go out for a walk (received all required vaccinations) it is a good idea to take him out. This will allow him to go to the toilet and have a chance to exercise, especially if he has been in kennels.

Allow the dog to sniff around your home so that he gets familiar with the area. Anything he does that you do not want him to do (get on sofa, for instance) then you need to correct straight away, saying "NO" or take him off the sofa using his collar. Once he knows what he can and cannot do you will find he will settle a lot better and quicker. Do not think that you

are being mean to him by not allowing him to go into certain rooms. If he is allowed to go wherever he wants he will think he owns the house. Show him that it is your house; you have the right to go where you want.

Everyone in the household needs to follow the rules as if someone doesn't it will only confuse him.

### GOING TO BED

It is best to collect your new dog early in the morning as this way you will have the chance to spend time with him and he can become familiar with his new house.

You will have time to exercise him as well and settle him down. Make sure you have decided where your dog will sleep every night. Crates can be a good bed as they are secure, and you can see the crate training sheet for information. Before you put him in this area make sure he has had chance to go to the toilet and if possible take him for a walk. Having had him from the morning the chances are he will not have slept (too busy exploring his new house and having a walk) so when it is time for bed he will sleep. Just put him in the area and walk away. Do not say anything to him.

