

Tips for Helping A New Pet Settle Into Your Home



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For seniors, the company of pets can be a huge blessing as there are several [benefits](#) linked to it like reduced stress, regular exercise, and enhanced mental functions. On the other hand, any pet comes with responsibilities for the owner so it is important that you make a wise choice depending on your physical condition. It is often recommended that [seniors opt for adult dogs](#) or cats so that they do not have to [deal with](#) a young, active puppy. Whichever choice you make, it is important that you plan in advance, prepare your house, and help the new member of your family feel comfortable in your home. Here are a few tips to do just that:

- **Introduce The Pet To Your Home**

After you get a dog home, what message you give out is important as this will establish the ground rules in his/her mind. Do not let the dog run amok; instead, keep the leash on and introduce your pet to every room and area of the house. However, do not let the pup enter first, it needs to understand that you will lead. Do this for every door and spend a few minutes in each room while holding the dog by your side. If needed, take the help of a family member to do this, but do not skip this step. This way, they get used to

following your leadership—this can be extremely helpful, particularly at times when you need help, walk the dog outdoors, or have visitors over.

- **Give Them Space**

As much as pets are excited to please people, they may need a break from the constant attention, especially when they are in a new surrounding (your home). Understanding this is crucial as it will help build trust between you. Create a safe place where the pet can rest away from the action—a crate, a corner, or a room. [Adopted adult pets](#) are particularly susceptible to being scared and uncomfortable, so you need to be extra careful while getting them settled into a new place and let them take their time.

- **Be Animal-Specific In Your Arrangements**

Although pet parents of cats and dogs have to make almost similar arrangements to help the furry members settle into a new home, there are a few different things you can do when [bringing home a cat](#). Bring a familiar piece of bedding along with the cat and place it inside a large cardboard box laid on its side—this can serve as a safe place when the cat wants to hide. In addition, get cat-specific toys and supplies like a scratching post of the appropriate size to make your new pet feel welcome.

- **Be Patient and Realistic In Your Expectations**

Getting a new pet home is exciting, but do not frighten him/her with extra attention. Moreover, keep in mind that things will not start working out the way you want from Day 1. Give your furry friend time to learn the rules—after all, they are in completely new surroundings away from everything they knew until just a few days ago. So accidents might happen inside the house, they might not respond to your calls immediately, or want to hide rather than play at times. Give it at least a few weeks, and take the help of vets and professional trainers, if possible.

While having pets around can work as therapy for older people and also offer protection, you need to be aware of teaching your pet the ways of the house with minimal effort on your part once it is trained. Choosing a pet with the right temperament is vital to making it comfortable for both you and the four-legged member and to creating a loving, loyal bond.