



Bull Terrier Rescue

Helping your newly adopted or fostered Bully to settle in...

Your new bull terrier will take at least a month to truly settle in and show his true personality.

This makes the settling-in period the ideal time to put lots of new and better routines and behaviours in place and also to prevent any undesirable behaviours from developing or being rehearsed.

Remember that your new dog will not arrive perfect – he may have had a tough time in the past and is unlikely to even have had any training. There will be an adjustment period during which you might even consider sending your dog back to us – don't let it get that far. Contact our group admin. so that we can help you.

- Plug in a DAP diffuser near your new dog's bed - Dog appeasing pheromones are used to keep your dog calm under stressful situations.
- Decide on house rules for your new dog (what behaviours are and are not allowed) and start as you mean to go on.
- Your new dog should not have free run of any area unsupervised - use a houseline (only when supervised) so that you can easily prevent undesirable behaviour.

What do we mean by 'supervision'?

To supervise your new dog means that you are paying attention to his behaviour and that you will be able to spot trouble before it starts. Unless a dog is fully trained in a particular situation then supervision is a must – but **child-dog interactions** MUST ALWAYS be supervised by an adult capable of controlling the dog. Supervision is vital when children and dogs are together, when dogs and other pets are together, during toilet training, during chew toy training...you get it – at all times!

- If you can't actively supervise your dog's behaviour confine him to a puppy-proofed area such as his crate; always make sure that he has something to do while confined otherwise he might just decide to entertain himself. Provide stuffed Kong toys and other suitable chews and food dispensing toys for entertainment.

<http://www.kongcompany.com/>

- If you have other dogs or pets, limit your new dog's access to them inside the house or garden for at least the first week – allow the resident pets get used to the idea of having a new house mate and let the new dog settle in without the added pressure of having to make new friends all at once. Check out our New Introductions notes too, for more on this.
- Bring your new dog out for regular toilet breaks and reward with yummies for appropriate toileting; don't relax this regime until you get to know your new dog's toileting habits. Check out our **Housetraining** notes too, for more on this.
- Spend as much time as possible with your new dog for the first two weeks or so. We would then begin to work on gradually desensitising him to being alone. Newly adopted dogs are often distressed at being separated from their new person – you may have been one of the first people to be nice to this dog in quite some time and he doesn't want to lose you! Check out our **Alone Training** notes too, for more on this.

- **Don't feed from food bowls – measure out your new dog's daily food and mix in a few pieces of really yummy treats such as chicken, banana or cheese. Mix together and leave in the fridge overnight. Use this Training Mix (mostly his regular food!) to handfeed to your new dog throughout the day for good behaviour, when meeting new people or being introduced to new experiences, for toilet training, for manners training and teaching your new dog to focus on you.**
- **Stuff any leftover Training Mix into food dispensing toys like Kongs so that he has something to do during alone time.**
- **Do not allow your new dog off leash in public for at least the first three months – recall is probably the most difficult behaviour to teach and you certainly don't want to teach your new dog not to come back to you or even worse, to get away from you and cause trouble. Use a long line to exercise your dog rather than an extendable leash.**
- **Walk your dog on a front connection harness so that he never learns to pull – if he puts pressure on the leash by pulling stop dead and wait for him to release the pressure before moving forward again**
- **Bring your new dog to the vets, groomers and other dog friendly places just to hang out – bring along his favourite toys and treats so that he learns to have fun and relax there.**
- **While your dog is occupied chewing on a toy or bone approach and toss some yummys, then immediately move away again. This teaches your new dog that he does not need to guard from you and that when you come close good things happen.**
- **Never force your new dog to approach something that he is spooked by or scared of – make a note of anything that he is unsure of and expose him to these situations from a greater distance while feeding him his favourite treats.**
- **Teach your new dog that access to the things he wants comes through you – do this by asking him to sit or carry out another behaviour anytime he wants access to something, then reward him by allowing him to have his reward.**
- **After activity or excitement spend some time bringing your dog 'down' by helping him to relax.**
- **For the first few nights in his new home have your new dog sleep in his crate beside your bed – over the first couple of weeks you will gradually move his crate further and further away but at least this will mean fewer sleepless nights and more efficient crate and toilet training.**
- **Do not use any type of tightening collar, spray, startle or shock equipment on your new dog – this will not make training easier.**
- **There is no need to scold, 'correct', tell your dog off, slap, kick or use leash jerks or 'corrections' on your new dog.**
- **NEVER tell a dog off for growling (or any other warning) – if told off, the next time the dog might not give you a warning...**
- **There is no need to dominate your new dog – your new dog needs guidance in his new life, not intimidation or bullying.**

Please contact your State's admin for behaviour advice regarding helping your new dog settle in or indeed in relation to any training and behaviour matters.

Expect all of these sorts of behaviours --> they are normal dog behaviours so check this out to learn how to modify them without them causing dog or people problems.