Taking A New Dog Home

The Trip Home
- Have necessary equipment at home.
- Bring Leash and Emergency Contact Sheet to the CDC when picking up your dog.
- Determine who will be the handler in the family when transporting the dog home or as alternative, dog can be short tied.
- Children should be educated that calm greetings will reduce the dog’s excitability and enhance your control.
- After necessary paperwork is signed, walk your dog in the “get busy” area before leaving the CDC. Plastic baggies and a trash bag for picking up solid waste are on a roll nearby. Put the bag over your hand to pick up waste.
- Dog should be placed on the floor in the front of the vehicle with the leash secure (this is how they have been trained to ride).

Arriving Home
- If you have other animals, allow your brood or stud to get acquainted outside, preferably on neutral turf. Don’t allow either dog to overwhelm the other. This is best accomplished by walking the dogs within 10 feet each other, sit them, walk away, re-approach and sit. Keep repeating until the dogs are very responsive to the handlers and make the distance between dogs closer as you are successful in maintaining responsiveness. Once they are very close, allow a brief greeting then walk them together down the road stopping occasionally for brief greetings.
- Take your dog to the area of the yard that you would like them to use to “get busy”. Give them sufficient time to relieve themselves. If unproductive, take the dog inside. Once inside, walk the dog throughout the house, on leash, allowing them to smell and explore. If their nose should go to the counter tops, trash, or another area unacceptable to you, redirect them (Make mental note of this behavior and apply the rule of 3).
- Water should be kept accessible to the dog as needed.
- Continue to take your dog outside every hour until he or she “gets busy” in the assigned area.
- Continue to keep your dog on leash and in the same room you are in for at least one week.

Feeding Time
- Food and amount instructions will be given to you at discharge time.
- Make your dog sit (eventually ask for other behaviors—refer to the Puppy Politeness Poker Handout) and wait until the bowl is on the floor and return to a standing position.
- Give the command “free” for them to eat.
- If you have another dog, do not feed them right next to each other. Giving them distance between bowls gives them respect and allows them to eat in comfort. When a dog goes to another dog’s food bowl while eating, it could create a problem. Redirect your dog and ask him to sit if he shows interest in the other dog’s food.
- Be attentive to your dog’s weight. Refer to the ideal body condition chart (dogs should have an hourglass body shape) and also reweigh your dog when coming for training lessons to keep your dog at the target weight. You have access to use GEB scales when needed. Please do not go to outside veterinary clinics to weigh you dog.
- If you have cats, move the cat food to a counter or other elevated position. Also make the cat box inaccessible to the dog. If you do not, dogs often consider these as treats and cat litter can be very harmful to them.

Bed Time
- Take dog out “one more time” before retiring.
- Put in kennel (kennel can be kept in any living part of the house, not in unheated garage or basement).
- These dogs are used to being with people. Moving the crate to your bedroom at night will help the transition them to their new environment. Remember dogs have to earn their privilege to sleep outside of their crates in a confined space. Some dogs may never have this option.

**Getting Up**

- Ask the dog to sit, hook on the leash to the buckle collar (be careful not to hook it on the tag ring, instead use the big D ring). Once sitting, say “lets go” and then walk politely to the door. The dog must remain sitting until you invite them out the door.
- Get busy outside.
- Return inside and feed.
- Go back to bed if you want but re-crate the dog if he/she will not be supervised by an adult.

**Exercise**

- A morning walk is wise to settle your dog. Through the day you must walk at least 3 miles a day minimum or 21 miles a week.
- Exercise is a very important responsibility and commitment for anyone who is caring for a member of GEB’s breeding colony. Equally important is insuring that your dog is physically conditioned to endure the level of exercise that is expected.
- When taking a new dog to your home you can begin with a 3 mile walk per day. If you are jogging or playing a physically active game such as Frisbee® with your dog, you should assess the previous level of exercise through discussions with the puppy raiser, previous foster or the GEB foster coordinator. Based upon these discussions, you can determine at what level you can begin exercising the dog.

**Guideline for Building Endurance**

- If your dog has not previously walked or jogged any great distance, begin with two shorter walks during the day rather than a full 3 miles at one time. Gradually increase the length of one of the walks. One suggestion may be to increase the first walk of the day by ½ mile every 5 days, while decreasing the second walk of the day by the same amount. Dogs vary in their level of fitness and you should monitor their ability to tolerate the increase and adjust the number of days accordingly.

**Safe Exercising In Hot Weather**

- It is also very important to take into account the weather conditions at your chosen exercise time on any given day, and make any necessary adjustments in the amount of exercise or the time of day chosen. High temperatures and high humidity can lead to heat exhaustion or heat stroke.
- On the hotter days, you may need to split your walks into several smaller ones. It is suggested to do earlier AM walks and later PM walks when the sun is not at its hottest and the humidity is not at its highest.
- Be aware of the road/sidewalk surface temperatures as well when you are walking your dog. Dogs can blister their feet when the surface is too hot.

**Heat Exhaustion (Heat Stroke) Can Be Fatal**

- Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are dangerous conditions that occur when a dog is exercised beyond their ability. In days of high heat and especially high humidity, exercise should be less strenuous and done during the cooler parts of the day. Our dogs want to please you and may not give you obvious indications that they are having difficulty until it is too late.
- Signs that your dog may be getting overheated are: heavy panting, slowing down during a run, excessive salivation, stumbling or disorientation. If you are concerned that your dog is overheating it is a good idea to take their temperature after the exercise. A normal temp for a dog is between 101.5 and 103.
- Mild to moderate overheating is noted by rectal temperatures between 103.1 and 105. It is not unusual for a dog to have temperatures between 103 and 104 with strenuous exercise. Temperatures in this range should be managed by giving your dog lots of cold water and allowing your dog to rest in a cool spot.
- If your dog’s temperature is 106 or above, this constitutes a dangerous and potentially lethal situation. Immediately begin to cool your dog by putting lukewarm water gradually transitioning to cold water as not to shock the dog’s system by cooling to rapidly. Page GEB vet to notify us of the situation. If the temperature is 107 or higher, call an emergency clinic or veterinarian immediately and go there for life supportive care. Page GEB on your way to notify us of the situation.