

Northern Oaks

Bird and Animal Hospital

Introducing Your Puppy To A New Home

It is well documented that the companionship of a puppy has positive benefits for people. Even older dogs and cats can perk up when a pup is introduced into the household. Puppies give unqualified love, affection, and devotion.

The following are essential items for the new puppy:

- High quality food
- Food and water bowls that can be easily sanitized
- Dog crate
- Shampoo, proper grooming tools
- A collar, leash, and “Nyla-Bone” chew toys

The change of environment can cause many stress-related problems:

- Diarrhea
- Tracheobronchitis (cough).
- Hypo-glycemia (Low blood-sugar)
- Dehydration

These physical problems are often brought on by stress, and are similar to problems you might have if you were moving to a new area. Like you, the puppy may not sleep or eat as regularly as it would in more familiar surroundings. Some puppies ease through the transition to their new homes, while others may have a more difficult time. Stress-related problems can lead to secondary problems that are serious.

Rest is very important to the puppy. Puppies generally sleep throughout the day, waking only to play for a short time, eat, and eliminate waste. Do not expect the puppy to run and play all day. A human baby does not play all day either. Treat your puppy just the same as if it was a newborn infant being brought home from the hospital.

Call for advice anytime the puppy seems lethargic, or does not want to eat. Small breeds are more susceptible to hypoglycemia (low blood sugar), and may need additional feedings in small quantities. Some puppies require privacy, coaxing, or companionship to eat. Every puppy is different. The puppy’s diet should never be changed rapidly. The puppy might not eat the strange new food, or might develop diarrhea. Diet changes should be made over a 1-2 week period to prevent digestive upsets.