



Rescue. Renew. Rehome.

ABOUT YOUR HOUND

Some helpful information to help with the transition of your new pet

ADJUSTMENT PERIOD

Your new hound will need time and patience to adapt to their new family, potentially at least 2-3 weeks. Until your hound has completely bonded with you and feel comfortable in their new surroundings, they may show some separation anxiety by standing at a door or window, as though “ready to go” or following you closely from room to room.

During this period, you may see signs of stress such as panting, pacing, shedding, or a more frequent need to drink or urinate. Be careful not to let your hound off leash near an open door since they may try to push past and make an escape. Children should be especially careful. Give your hound a place they can be alone if desired; like a crate or a dog bed in a quiet room. Do not force your hound to interact with you or other family members, visitors, or strangers and respect signals that they would prefer to rest or be alone. Setting a routine will help your hound adapt more quickly. Some example of routines:

- Feed the same brand and quantity of dog food, in the same place and at the same time each morning and evening. If you change to a different dog food, do it gradually, mixing the food together for a few days before making a total switch. This will help prevent a stomach upset or loose stools.
- Keep your hound’s bed in the same place and go to bed about the same time each night.
- Have regular training sessions to work on simple commands and leash walking
- Have a regular elimination schedule. Dogs often eliminate more frequently if they are under stress. Most need to go out the first thing in the morning, immediately after playtime, shortly after dinner time, when they first wake up from long naps, and just before bedtime.
- Begin a walking program as exercise is important for their health and stress reduction.

Training/Safety: As with any new pet’s arrival, safety issues cannot be overstressed - for family members, friends, current pets, and the new hound. It is best to be cautious until your new hound becomes completely familiar with their new surroundings in all kinds of circumstances as many rescues have not had a wide range of experiences. While introducing your new hound slowly to new things, observe their behavior, watch their body language, and give them plenty of reassurance and praise.

MNBR strongly recommends obedience training classes for all new dog owners. These classes can help you learn what to expect from your hound (and vice versa) in the years ahead, and cover a wide range of topics such as health care, proper feeding, and first aid, in addition to sit, come, and stay. Be sure to find a trainer that uses positive techniques only.

Dogs: If you have more than one current dog, introduce them one at a time to your new hound. Both dogs should be on leashes and on neutral ground so your current dog won’t feel obligated to protect their territory. Do not allow the dogs to rush up to each other; let only their noses touch first and be prepared to separate them quickly if necessary. Take both dogs on a walk together, then let them enter your house together. Your current dog will need more reassurance and praise during this period of adjusting to a newcomer and should be given the benefit of the doubt if a dispute does arise. Do not leave the dogs alone together until you are completely certain their relationship is safe.



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Cats: If your hound is not used to living with a cat (or vice versa) it may take several weeks or even months for them to become safely acquainted. Leave a short leash on your hound and if they try to chase the cat distract the dog with a treat. Be sure your cat always has a safe escape route and do not leave them alone with the new hound until you are completely certain their relationship is safe.

Collars: As soon as possible, get an ID tag with your information. Your new hound has a MNBR ID tag and collar which should be worn at all times. Martingale collars or harnesses are recommended for hounds. Choke or prong collars are not recommended as they may injure the dog's neck.

Children: It is exciting having a new dog but be careful your hound doesn't get overstimulated during the initial adjustment period. Do not leave your hound unsupervised with young children.

Crates & Toys: MNBR encourages the use of crates for training puppies and adults. Remove all collars before placing your dog in their crate to prevent injury or strangulation. Make sure your hound has indestructible or completely edible chew toys, especially if they will be alone for several hours each day. Consulting with a reputable pet store or veterinarian can be helpful. Rawhides can be a choking hazard and should not be used without supervision.

OTHER ITEMS

Do not let your hound off leash outside a fenced area. Hounds think with their noses and if they pick up a scent they will wander and not be able to find their way home. Make sure fence gates are locked and secured so your hound cannot open a gate or be easily stolen from your yard if unattended.

If you live near water or have a pool, know that not all hounds know how to swim and can easily drown. Do not give your hound access to water while unattended. Install barriers or use other measures to prevent your hound from falling into the water or through a pool cover. Many foods, plants, or substances can be harmful or deadly to dogs, such as chocolate, avocado seeds, onions, poultry bones, and antifreeze. Check with your veterinarian for a complete list of toxins.

IF YOU ADOPTED A PUPPY

Feeding: To discourage food aggression, sporadically pick up their food dish during mealtime, wait a few seconds, then give it back. Other times just gently pet and praise your puppy once or twice while eating.

Health: Until all puppy shots have been completed, avoid public areas where diseases may be present to protect their fragile immune systems.

Housebreaking: Crate training and positive reinforcement are the best ways to housetrain.

Safety: Take time to puppy-proof your home and yard. Put away anything they can reach.

Training: Snapping and mouthiness is inappropriate and should be discouraged. Help your puppy become accustomed to being touched so they will feel more comfortable at the vet's office. Gently brush fur, inspect ears, hold each paw and inspect toes, and check teeth by gently lifting the lips.

If at any time you feel like you need additional help with training or behavioral issues, please contact us and we'll be happy to help in any way we can!