BAYPATH
HUMANE SCIETY
OF HOPKINTON
www.BaypathHumane.org

TOP TIPS
Preparing for Your New Dog

1 Use indoor gates.

It's very common for dogs to get frightened and bolt when they're in a new environment. Using baby gates during your dog's first few weeks at home will help keep them from inadvertently running out the door into harm's way.

2 Keep a watchful eye.

If you have a fenced yard, check for any gaps or holes before taking your dog home. Also, you may want to use a long lead during your dog's early days at home. This way if they get scared and try to run you can pick up the lead and keep them from running off.

3 Toss out the retractable leash.

We strongly recommend that you not use a retractable leash for your dog. Consumer Reports has found tens of thousands of hospital-treated injuries as a result of retractable leashes.
In addition, if you accidentally drop a retractable leash it can scare the dog into running away. A safer option is to use a sturdy 6' nylon or leather leash.

4 Have some quiet time.

It's understandable to want to introduce your new furry family member to everyone, but animal behaviorists recommend taking it slow. The first two weeks are best spent giving your dog time to get to know you, your family, their new home, and their new routine.

5 Get Identification.

Get a tag for your dog with their name, their microchip number, and your contact information. Also, contact the microchip company to let them know your address and cell phone number. Be sure to update this if you move or change phone numbers.

6 Make dietary changes slowly.

It's not uncommon for dogs to have GI issues at first due to all the changes in their lives. To minimize stomach upset, keep your new dog on the same food they were eating at the shelter initially. If you're planning to switch to a new food, make the transition slowly, mixing in a bit more of the new food each day.

7 Dog proof.

Use child safe latches to ensure that your dog doesn't get into cabinets containing items such as medications, household cleaners, laundry detergent, automotive and lawn care products, etc.