



Bringing a new dog home is very exciting, but if you're a new pet owner who has not done enough research before purchasing or adopting your new dog, you may be in for a surprise.

If you're interested in buying or adopting a dog, doing your research will save you a lot of headaches in the future.

Here is a list of the top 10 mistakes new dog owners make:

TOP 10 MISTAKES NEW DOG OWNERS MAKE

FORGETTING ABOUT PERSONALITY

01

Most new pet owners just want the cutest dog and forget that each dog has its own personality. Research the dog breed you are interested in to learn about its lifespan, exercise needs, intelligence, and diet to see if they are compatible with your lifestyle.

NOT PREPARING FOR CHANGE

02

People often assume their dog's personality will never change (or that it will improve with age), especially with puppies. However, puppies go through hormonal and environmental changes that will shape its adult life.

Rescue dogs have experienced traumatic events and develop fear, anxiety, and depression. The dog you see at the shelter is likely to change once it gets comfortable in your home.

Most new pet owners make the mistake of assuming their dog's personality will not be affected by a new owner and/or environment.

Always get as much information as you can from the breeder, shelter, or foster parent when choosing your furry friend.

NOT SETTING HOUSE RULES

03

House rules must be put in place the moment your dog enters your home, so that it knows what is acceptable and what is not. Whether your new dog is a puppy, adult, or senior, it will take them time to adjust to their surroundings and your rules, so be patient.

NOT ENFORCING THE RULES

04

It's important that you enforce the rules you set for your dog, otherwise it will get confused about what is allowed. Being consistent in rewarding your dog is also an important key to their development. Remember to tell your guests about your rules, so that they don't disrupt your relationship between you and your pet.

WAITING TO TRAIN YOUR PUPPY

05

Don't wait too long to start training your new puppy. Puppies are capable of learning at 8 weeks. Early training will strengthen your relationship and communication.

WAITING FOR BAD HABITS TO PASS

06

If you do not take proper measures to correct your dog's bad behaviours, they will only get worse. If you're having difficulty educating your dog, consider hiring a professional trainer to help you.

BEING TOO LENIENT

07

Sometimes it's difficult to enforce your rules because you think you're being too hard on your pet, especially a cute little puppy. But keep in mind that if you are not consistent in upholding your rules, your dog will likely take those bad habits into adulthood.

NOT SOCIALIZING YOUR DOG

08

Socializing your dog is vital, especially if you have a puppy. It's important that you socialize your puppy during its first 12-16 weeks. The more positive experiences your dog has with other dogs and people during this period, the friendlier your dog will become.

BEING CARELESS WITH VALUABLES

09

Do not assume your new dog (especially a puppy) will not touch your valuables.

Make sure your dog knows what toys are his or hers. Spend as much time as you can together playing with those toys. If you catch your furry friend playing or chewing on your valuables, quickly replace it with one of its toys. Until your dog has learned the difference, hide your valuables when you're not around.

Be patient.

NOT RECOGNIZING FEAR

10

Do not force your dog to do something its reluctant to do, because chances are it is afraid. Always look for signs of fear and anxiety. Do not force them into the situation further. Find a professional trainer to help you and your dog in these situations.

Plan and be prepared before you bring your new friend home. Follow these rules and stick with them, and you and your dog will enjoy a wonderful life together. And remember to always be patient with your pooch. If you dedicate time and effort to training your dog, it will listen and respect you!