

2. Introducing the Dog to Its New Environment

It is important that your dog's introduction to your home and members of your family (including other pets) should not be a traumatic experience. For this reason, the following points should be kept in mind and implemented when you arrive home:

- Try to avoid having a "welcoming committee" waiting for your arrival. Stick to members of your household only so that your dog is not overawed or confused. (See section 3.2 regarding children.)
- If you have pets at home, allow them to meet your new dog on neutral territory (see section 3.1).
- Initially, keep your new dog on the lead while showing him/her around the house and yard. On completion of this first introduction, allow him/her to explore freely but replace the lead if he/she becomes overexcited or boisterous.
- Remember that your dog will need to relieve him/herself soon after your arrival home. For this reason, you might begin your tour in the yard with your dog on a long leash.
- Ensure that members of the family do not overpower the dog. Let your dog make his/her own introduction to them.
- Try to ensure that temptations, such as food, are out of reach. Dangerous items should also be put away, such as medicines, ointments, and razor blades.
- If you encounter problems in any of these or other areas, contact GDTx for advice.