

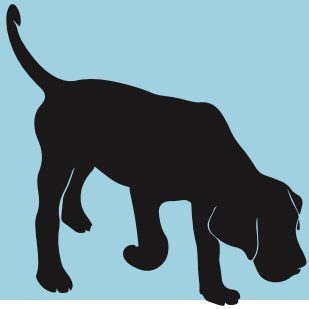
# TWO WEEK SHUT DOWN

Recommended For All Dogs Adopted Out Of The Lehigh Valley Humane Society

Your home is a brand-new, scary place that requires an adjustment period. Giving your dog a two-week "time-out" gives them the time they need to learn about their new environment.

The smells in the home are new. People's voices are new. The food is new. The walks are new. The rules are new. Everything is new. All of these new things cause stress on the dog.

**Give them a safe space:** This could be a crate in a separate room or keeping them confined to a single room in the home.



**Give the dog time in their crate after exercise, meals, and play time:** This gives them time to take everything in and reflect.

**Exercise is essential:** All dogs need to burn off energy. Going for regular walks can be a great way to build the bond between you and your newly adopted dog. Playing fetch in a fenced in yard is also a great way to exercise and burn off excess energy.

**Keep the leash on inside the home:** This will avoid unneeded stress when its time to go out. Teach the dog to look to you for guidance on everything: They should trust you and look to you as their new leader.



**Try to ignore bad behavior:** If you run to your dog every time they bark, whine, or cry, you're rewarding the bad behavior and teaching them that doing those things gets your attention. Encourage good behavior. Let your dog know when they are behaving appropriately. When you ignore the bad behavior, and reward the good behavior, you start teaching the dog what you expect from them.

**Pet stores:** This could be a very overwhelming experience for your newly adopted dog.

**Intense obedience training:** This does not mean you shouldn't work on basic commands like sitting and loose leash walking. It means nothing too taxing – remember to keep it fun for the dog.

**Remember, routine and consistency are critical to success!**

A strict feeding and play schedule go a long way. Trips outside to the toileting area after eating are a must. Set your dog up for success by being the consistent leader they look to for guidance and direction.

**Car rides:** Many dogs find car travel to be stressful and this can lead to sensory overload.



**Other Furry Friends:**

This can be difficult, but it's also extremely important. If the new dog immediately bonds with another dog in the home, they will look to them for the direction and guidance that you want them looking to YOU for. For this reason, it is imperative that you keep them separated. If you cannot maintain total separation, it is best to put them in crates side-by-side.