

## **ADVICE FROM UPPER CREDIT HUMANE SOCIETY**

### **Your New Dog**

Your adopted dog will need some time to adjust to everything in his/her new environment. The dog has come from a stressful situation (leaving his old home or staying in an animal shelter; maybe receiving treatment or surgery at a vet clinic) and then has been placed in your home, with another new family, environment, neighbours and daily routine. Mature dogs tend to be much less flexible and adaptable than puppies with no previous expectations or conceptions about humans. Poor appetite, uneasiness, pacing, panting, breaking housetraining, whining and diarrhoea in some cases are common signs of stress in dogs. Even if your dog does not exhibit these typical signs, be aware there is always some anxiety associated with a complete change in routine.

### **The Transition**

You can make your dog's transition into his/her new home easier if the excitement level is kept to a minimum during the first week. Go out of your way to keep things calm and quiet. Let the dog explore his/her surroundings and learn his/her new routine with a minimum of stress. Now is not the time to invite the neighbours and relatives over to meet the new addition to your family, or parade your dog all over town, nor is it an appropriate time to begin a strict obedience regime. Keep boisterous play to a minimum and control your urge to constantly pet the dog. Although it is wonderful to have a new dog, give him/her some space by letting him/her come to you, rather than going to the dog.

### **Introducing the Dog to Other Members of the Household**

Common sense is used when introducing the dog to other animals in your home. Dogs and cats should be introduced with the dog on leash and muzzled if necessary. Caution should be used at home (baby gates, cat doors etc.) until they are accustomed to each other. Your adopted dog should not be left unattended with other animals until you are certain there will be no problems. They are also not baby sitters for your children, and under no circumstances should this combination be left unsupervised.

Remember.....it is not what your **dog** can do to your child, but what your **child** can do to your dog that may elicit unwanted behaviour.

**PLEASE DO NOT SET YOUR DOG UP TO FAIL**