

5 HOMECOMING HABITS

5 Habits to practice with your dog to prepare for successful homecoming with a new baby in the family!



Engage your dog's Senses

Babies come with new noises, new equipment, new toys, new smells, new...everything! Give your dog a chance to experience things they might expect early and often, pairing it with treats to make good experiences. Think about toys they'll need to leave alone, sounds they'll need to ignore, and smells they'll need to not interfere with!

Plan for easy Settling

Plan for enrichment and exercise for your dog - either with a trainer or through food puzzles or snuffle mats - so your dog is fulfilled and more likely to settle. Boredom can create behavior challenges that are harder to deal with when you yourself are sleep deprived and stressed!



Give them a sense of Security

Your dog should have areas of the house that are inaccessible to the baby - and will remain so into toddlerhood and beyond. Make sure your dog has a safe place to retreat to if they become overwhelmed and reward them for seeking out that space.



Manage your dog's personal Space

Babies naturally grasp and hold, and don't have the fine motor control to be gentle with dogs. Always guide their hands when petting and as they get older teach them to give the dog space to move away if they want to leave an interaction.



Always provide Supervision

All games and interactions between dogs and children should be supervised - not only watched by a parent or guardian, but evaluated to make sure everyone is having a good time. That means understanding your dog's stress signals and assessing if they are getting too excited to safely interact, and intervening before problems arise!

