



Congratulations! You've Met Your Match.

A guide to day one and beyond
with your orange dog



the orange canine-alties

MYM
MEET YOUR MATCH™

What's your orange dog all about?

Congratulations on finding your new best friend! This booklet is designed to help you understand your orange buddy. It provides helpful pointers on what to do when you bring him home...and what he'll need from that point forward.



busy bee

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I'm a naturally playful, curious and trusting canine. Take me for a long walk every day and give me something to do. After my job's done, I'll curl up with you in the evenings.

He's the social butterfly!

He's socially motivated and willing to work for the approval of humans and human interaction.

What does he value?

He perceives human contact to be more valuable than toys or food.



wallflower



Shy yet charming canine searching for patient owner with relaxed lifestyle. Looking for gentle guidance to help me come out of my shell. Treat me sweet and kind and I'll blossom.

Independent and shy at heart!

He's internally motivated and finds all sorts of unpredictable and changing stimuli to be interesting.

What does he value?

He'd appreciate a family who is patient with him and allows him to be shy in the beginning. With time, any shyness will likely subside and he'll soon show you what a loving dog he can be!



goofball



I'm a fun-loving, happy-all-the-time, glass-is-half-full kind of dog looking for someone who loves to laugh and play around. Must have a great sense of humor and some time to spend with me. I'm on a mission to please you.

He loves everything!

This externally motivated dog responds to many positive stimuli.

What does he value?

He thinks that food, toys and human contact are great and he'll happily work for all of them!



Setting the Stage for Success: Your First Week Together

Ready to embark on a lifelong journey with your new best friend? Here are some key factors to consider soon after arriving home to help ensure a smooth transition for both of you.

Creating a comfortable environment

We understand how important it is to find quick, fun ways to increase your bond with your new dog. Here are some ways to help your dog feel comfortable in his new home:

Consistency is key! If your dog can anticipate when he'll be eating, taking a walk or even napping, he'll quickly become more relaxed and confident.

Let him check it out! Encourage your dog to explore his new home and reward him for being brave.

Make exploring fun! If your dog is unsure about exploring, lure him into rooms with tasty treats and reward him the moment he enters.

Give him a place of his own! Create a space for your dog to relax and get away from the activities in the house. Be sure to put it in a location where he can still see all the action, but choose to observe rather than participate. Put toys in his crate or on his bed to encourage him to hang out in his special spot.

Socialization

We want you to have a fun, well-adjusted dog you can take anywhere. Socialization is a process through which your dog becomes comfortable with all sorts of situations, people, and objects. All dogs are a work in progress, so it's important for socialization to take place throughout his entire life. To get started on the right foot:

Make it fun! One of the best ways to socialize your dog is to take him everywhere you go, getting him used to different places, other dogs, and people of all shapes and sizes. Bring his favorite toys or delicious treats to reward him for his courage.

Here's the plan for the first week at home: Introduce him to five new people, places and interesting items in the home or out on a walk. Don't forget to bring his treats!

Choosing the proper walking/no-pull device

You may discover that your dog is highly enthusiastic about a good power-walk as he drags you down the sidewalk on his first few outings. The goal, however, is for both you and your dog to have enjoyable walks together. There are a few devices to help deter your dog from pulling on the leash. If your dog isn't pulling on the leash, you can stick with the buckle or snap collar with a regular leash.

He'll be walking with his chest high!

The Weiss Walkie™ or SENSE-ation Harness™ redistributes the pressure from the collar (created by pulling on the leash) to behind the front legs around the barrel of the chest. This sensation discourages the dog from continuing to pull.

Get him ahead of the game! Head collars, such as the Gentle Leader®, are another effective device that deter a dog from pulling on the leash.

With pain there's no gain! No one wants to see their dog in pain or discomfort. We do not recommend using prong collars, choke chains, or shock collars. These devices can cause your dog to develop physical and behavioral problems.

Exercise

Here are some tips to manage your new friend's energy level:

Choose an activity! As soon as possible, identify the most fun and effective activity your dog enjoys. Exercise can include a vigorous game of fetch, a 20-minute jog, a couple of walks per day, or a play date at the dog park.

He'll invent his own games! If you don't provide exercise for him, he may invent his own games which could include chewing on your shoes, carpet, or even your couch!

The plan for the first week:

Introduce him to five new people, places and interesting items in the home or out on a walk. Don't forget to bring his treats!



Enrichment

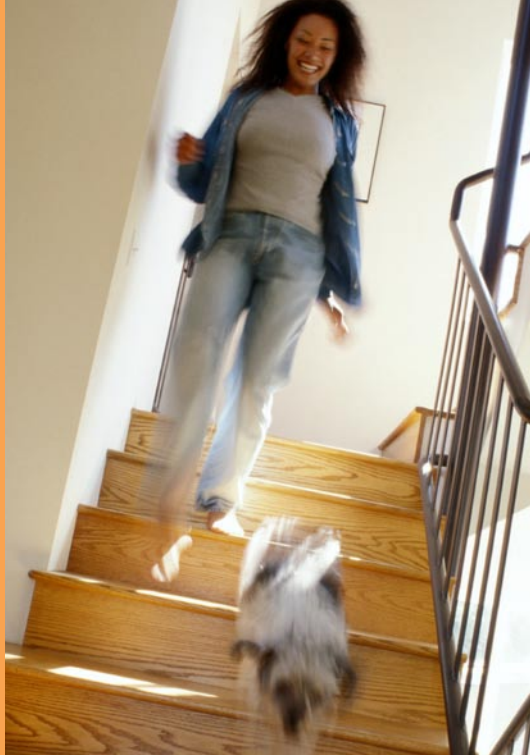
Wondering what to do with this new creative canine in your home? “Enrichment” is a term that describes ways to engage the mind of your inquisitive dog, and includes games and problem-solving toys.

Want a little quiet time? A basic enrichment device is a hollow rubber toy like a Kong® stuffed with peanut butter. Your dog will work for quite a long time to lick the peanut butter out, giving you time to yourself. Make this activity last even longer by freezing the stuffed Kong before giving it to your dog. You can also give him marrow bones to keep him busy.

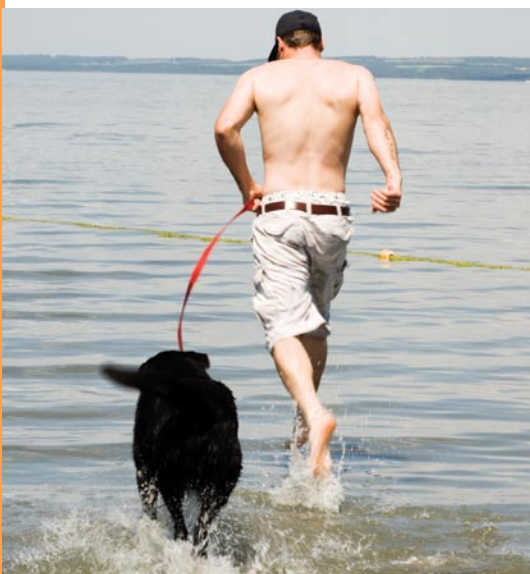
When he’s hungry - teach him! Dogs, especially “Wallflowers,” aren’t always motivated to learn new tricks or verbal cues. Right before mealtime, though, they’re often hungry and more willing to work for their dinner. Use half his kibble to teach him verbal cues like sit, stay, down, and shake. He’ll be mentally stimulated by all the new things you’re asking him to do!

Make it interesting! Mealtime is another great opportunity for enrichment. Instead of feeding your dog his kibble from the bowl, you can scatter it throughout the house so he has to search for it. You can also put the kibble inside a food-dispensing enrichment device, such as the Buster Cube® or Tricky Treat™ Ball, which require the dog to roll it around the house for the kibble to fall out.

Don’t forget toys! Also great for enrichment are Nylabones®, squeaky toys, rope toys, plush toys, and balls he can have fun and be silly with.



Activities and interactive objects make your dog’s life more rewarding.



Setting the Stage for Success: Your Second Week Together

You and your new best friend have had a wonderful first week and are both feeling more comfortable with each other. Now's the perfect time to really get to know your buddy and what makes him tick. Your newly-adopted orange dog is the best of both worlds; he's lively and playful, but willing to relax with you at the end of the day. This section is designed to help you understand what to expect, how to interact with your orange dog in the first few days based on his energy level, and what motivates him.

Goofball

Silly is his middle name, as your orange "Goofball" works hard to entertain you and everyone else he encounters. People are his passion and his goal is to make them laugh and win their approval. You can expect him to most likely:

Want lots of quality time with you!

This may be a walk, time to play tug, or "helping" you with your daily activities at home.

Seek out your approval. Praise him when he chooses to chew his toy as opposed to your new pair of shoes!

Require exercise and time to be silly!

He'll be energetic, but after a good romp outside, activities around the house will suit him well.

Busy Bee

Fully living up to his title, your "Busy Bee" is always looking for a job to do. People, toys, and food all motivate him and he's willing to work for them! You can expect him to most likely:

Be on the go much of the time with a few naps here and there. There's so much to see and do in his new home!

Require vigilant supervision as he explores his home. Many things are

fun and exciting to him, including your new tennis shoes and the furniture. When he chooses to play with his toys, offer lots of praise!

Need to complete a few jobs each day to keep him physically and mentally active. This can include a good walk or trip to the dog park and a Kong stuffed with peanut butter. Once he completes his daily duties, he'll be ready to settle in with you for the night.

Wallflower

Sweet and reserved, your "Wallflower" is ready to settle into a relaxed lifestyle with you. What he most needs is a secure relationship and home life with you. You can expect him to most likely:

Seek security with you. His world just changed significantly so he's seeking your patience and affection.

Need a little brushing-up on his socialization skills. Make new experiences very pleasant for him so that he can become a confident canine!

Require a predictable schedule and environment. The more he can anticipate in his daily life with you, the quicker his true Canine-ality™ will appear. Let him learn the routine of when he'll eat, go for a walk, and be taken outside.



Setting the Stage for Success: Your Third Week Together

Having this brand-new bundle of energy in your home has been a blast! Three weeks into your relationship, though, the “honeymoon” period may be starting to wind down and you begin to settle into your routine together. The following tips and tricks will help you stay the course so you and your beloved dog can strengthen your bond and become lifelong buddies!

Why is ignoring incorrect behavior so important?

Your dog loves attention from you and will even do silly and incorrect things to get your focus on him. We’re naturally inclined to give our dogs a stern “NO” or put our hands on them to stop them from doing something. When we do that our dogs are thinking, “It worked! I’m the center of attention! I’ll have to try that again!” Even though we have the best of intentions as we try to correct him, we’re actually reinforcing that behavior and will likely see our dogs do the same thing again in the future. They’re looking for attention, whether it’s positive or negative!

Barking for attention

Has your dog developed the new habit of barking at you every time you’re on

the phone, cooking dinner, or watching television? This is one way he knows to get your attention – in fact, it’s the most successful method! Try these tips next time he begins to bark for attention:

Ignore him! He’s looking for some response from you that indicates he got your attention; therefore, don’t look at him or talk to him. If you do, you will reinforce the behavior and he’ll continue to bark at you.

Walk away! If you tried ignoring him and he still barks, walk away. He not only loses your attention, he loses proximity to you and knows the chances of getting your attention back are minimized.

Close the door behind you! If he’s still not getting the point, leave the room and close the door behind you so he can’t follow. This will tell him that every time he

acts incorrectly by barking for attention, he loses you completely. He wanted your attention and instead he lost it.

Celebrate good behavior! The second he's behaving correctly and waiting quietly for your attention, praise him! This tells him the correct way to get your attention and you'll likely see him waiting quietly for attention in the future.

Chewing

By now your dog has probably picked out a few favorite items to chew around your house. Maybe he thinks chewing on your new shoes or on the leg of your kitchen table is great fun, but you don't find it as entertaining! Eventually you want to diminish your role as your dog's full-time supervisor, so here's what you can try in order to show him the correct behavior:

Praise him! When he chooses to chew on his own toys, praise him and let him know he's choosing the correct behavior. He loves your attention, so he'll continue to behave if that earns him what he wants.

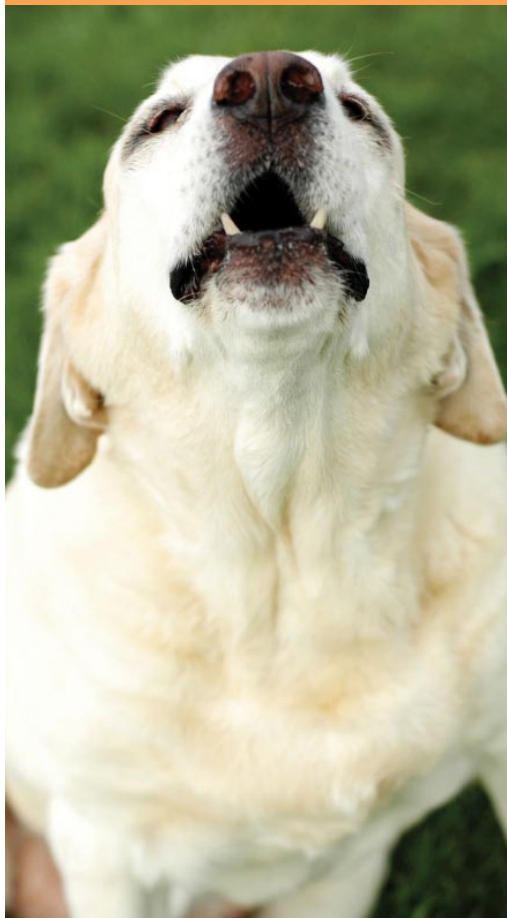
Don't scold him! If he chooses the incorrect behavior by chewing on something inappropriate, don't punish him. He doesn't want to be afraid of you!

Show him something better! When he begins to chew a forbidden item, grab one of his toys and engage him in play. He'll learn that it's way more fun to play with one of his own toys!

Make it taste unappealing! There are products on the market, such as Bitter Apple Spray®, that you can spray on certain items in your house. Your dog will likely pass up chewing on these items when he finds out how awful they taste!

Ignore your dog's inappropriate barking.

The moment he's sitting quietly, give him lavish praise and lots of treats!



Setting the Stage for Success: Your Third Week Together (continued)

Jumping to greet people

Orange dogs can be quite eager when greeting people! You love your dog's enthusiasm – you just want him to greet you, your visitors, and strangers in an appropriate manner. Here are some tips to help those greetings go well:

Let him greet you! Dogs greet each other by touching muzzles, so it's only natural for some dogs to want to greet people this way as well. If you feel comfortable, let him lick your chin. This may end the jumping immediately.

Ignore the jumping! When your dog jumps to greet, ignore him by turning your back, avoiding eye contact, and not speaking to him. He won't get anything he wants for his incorrect behavior.

Walk away! If your dog's behavior doesn't change when you turn your back to him, simply walk away. He wants you, but he won't get your attention unless he tries a more appropriate behavior!

Praise him for four paws on the floor! The moment he has four paws on the floor, greet him! Now he'll know what is expected of him to get your attention and greeting in the future.

If you give your dog attention for the wrong behavior, you'll most likely see that behavior again in the future.

Staying consistent and reinforcing the ranks

Our dogs love to act silly and sometimes will choose inappropriate behaviors, and at times we find this cute and funny. However, when we give our dogs attention for the wrong behavior, we will likely see the same behavior repeated in the future. The next time we see that behavior it may not be at a convenient time, like for example, when friends come over for dinner and our dogs are jumping on the kitchen table for food! In order to communicate clear expectations of correct behavior, we have to stick to the rules. Our dogs appreciate those clear expectations as well because it keeps their daily lives predictable!

More tips on enrichment

Keep him busy when he's home alone! Before you leave him for the day, whether it's in his crate or loose in your home, give him something fun to do to keep him busy while you're gone. Stuff a Kong or a Twist 'n Treat™ with peanut butter or cream cheese. For a greater challenge, freeze apple sauce or plain yogurt in a Kong. This will be mentally exhausting and he'll learn that it's pretty fun to be home alone!

Be creative! Identify toys or games your dog really likes, then make playing with them even more fun and challenging for him. For example, bury his favorite toy in blankets so he has to search for it, or freeze it in a container of broth-flavored ice and then sit outside with him while he works to get his toy.



Setting the stage for success: One month together...and beyond

You and your orange dog have happily settled into life together! He loves you and his comfy home and you love him and his great sense of humor. Here are some ways to keep your relationship on the right track:

Activities for dogs

Orange dogs enjoy a variety of activities in their daily routines, which is a great way for both of you to meet new people and dogs, learn new things, and spend time together to further your bond and develop a trusting relationship. Here are a few ideas for activities in your area:

Learn the tricks of the trade – Obedience Class! These classes can be found in most communities. Your local shelter may offer classes or may be able to direct you to a good trainer. Basic obedience class can serve as a jumping off point if you'd like to get into competitions with your dog that require a moderate amount of training. Whether you want a canine genius or simply a best friend who understands your verbal cues, obedience class is great for any dog! Be sure to seek out a class that uses reward-based training!

Be an example – Canine Good Citizens®! This program recognizes the well-behaved dogs in the community. It isn't a difficult goal to achieve; it only requires that your dog is well-socialized and has a few verbal cues that he's

practiced and fully understands. It's best if you go through basic obedience class with your dog first. Many Canine Good Citizens go on to become therapy dogs or fill other roles in which they have more contact with the community, but that isn't a requirement.

No, it's not a circus – Agility! Agility is great for orange dogs, as it's physically challenging and mentally stimulating. For those shy "Wallflowers," it can boost their confidence and help their Canine-ality™ blossom. There are different levels of agility so it's suited for small and large dogs alike. Before you look into an agility class, it's important to have a strong set of verbal cues that you use with your dog regularly and he understands. In no time, the two of you will be having a blast running the course!

For the love of the ball – Flyball! Do you have a dog who is highly motivated for tennis balls? If so, then this is the activity for you! This can be a highly competitive sport as well as a recreational activity. It will require your energetic orange dog to physically exert himself, problem solve, and meet lots of new dog friends!



Adding another dog to your home

You're having so much fun with your orange dog that you're looking to add another dog to your home! He'll be a friend for your dog to romp around with in the yard and another furry pal to snuggle with at night. Here are some tips to make the transition go smoothly for everyone:

Meet on neutral ground! Have the dogs meet for the first time somewhere that is unfamiliar to both of them so that the resident dog doesn't view the newcomer as an intruder. Most of the time you can bring your dog to the animal shelter to "interview" the newest addition to the family.

Make the introduction positive! Use a happy, calm voice when talking to the dogs. If you use a stern, loud voice, they will make a negative association with each other and will likely be less excited at becoming great friends. If they have a good experience when meeting each other, it's much more likely they'll enjoy the company of other canines as well.

Watch for play-bows! If one of the dogs crouches with his front legs on the ground and hind end in the air, you'll know this invitation to play means the introduction is going well.

Support the top dog! Once you've decided to adopt another dog and you're settling into life in a multi-dog home, identify the dog that appears to be obtaining important resources before the other dogs. You may notice that one of the dogs always eats first, gets the first pick of toys, or always has the first pick of sleeping spots. Be sure to support that dog by giving and allowing him to have those important resources before your other dogs in the home. All of your dogs will appreciate it!

Tips for life-long enrichment and bonding

Keep things fun! Your dog will appreciate, trust and enjoy life with you more if things stay on a positive note. He wants you to reward him when he's behaving correctly so he knows what to do again in the future, and not to punish him or become forceful when he chooses the incorrect behavior. A relationship of trust is built on his feeling that he's safe with you at all times!

Change things up and be creative! Keep things fun and interesting for him by, for example, frequently changing the route of his walk. He'll find all sorts of new smells and see lots of novel things along the way! It may seem simple, but dogs like a little variation in their environmental stimulation.

Activities are a great time to bond! Whatever activities you choose with your

dog, it will be a chance for both of you to create an even stronger bond. Knowing that your dog understands what you want and that you understand what motivates him can be highly rewarding!

Have a sense of humor! Dogs are funny creatures with a sense of humor; so you need to have one too! When you come home to garbage scattered across the kitchen floor and your dog innocently sitting in the middle of the mess, you can look at it from a positive view. What better enrichment is there than going through the garbage?! Instead of punishing him, just make sure the garbage is out of his reach before you leave next time --- and make sure he has a variety of appropriate toys to keep him entertained while you're gone.

Reward him when he's behaving correctly



We want to wish you well on your lifelong journey with your dog. Dogs are wonderful, fun companions who enhance our lives. If any difficulties should develop along the way with your friend, please seek the advice of your local shelter, trainer, or behaviorist. If the shelter identified any pre-existing behaviors in your dog when you adopted him, refer to any handouts they may have provided for further advice on how to best manage or treat the behavior. Thank you for going to your local shelter and adopting a homeless dog in need of a loving home!

All about my match

My new best friend is a

busy bee

wallflower

goofball

Favorite toy

Best walking device

Suggested Enrichment tool

Activities I might like

Other things I should know about my new dog:

The canine-alities



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Shy yet charming canine searching for patient owner with relaxed lifestyle. Looking for gentle guidance to help me come out of my shell. Treat me sweet and kind and I'll blossom.



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The Meet Your Match™ Adoption Program is a nationwide program of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA) available for use by shelters, rescue groups and other animal welfare organizations. Our mission is to increase the potential of successful, permanent placements between guardians and pets. For more information, visit www.aspc.org/meetyourmatch.

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