



## **Congratulations! You're Adopting a Shy Dog.** *Now what?!*

Adopting a shy dog can be a challenge and does take some extra work and diligence. Here are some things to do to aid with the transition, ensure the dog remains safe, and help ensure successful and lasting adoption.

- 1) Please ensure that this dog is always wearing a **COLLAR AND ID TAGS**. Note: all TCDR dogs are also microchipped.
- 2) Use a **SLIP LEAD** when taking this dog anywhere (for walks, to potty, car travel, etc.). TCDR will provide a temporary slip lead, but for longer-term use, you may want [a more substantial slip lead](#). **DO NOT** use a snap leash on a buckle collar, as this dog can—and will—quite easily back out of the collar and escape.
- 3) Until this dog has become comfortable as a part of your household, **ONLY YOU** should walk him/her and always on a **SLIP LEAD**. This is not the time to allow your friend, child, pet sitter or anyone else walk the dog. Be diligent when you are walking your shy dog—avoid talking on the phone or texting.
- 4) Work consistently to **CREATE A BOND** with your new dog. Let this dog take his/her time to become accustomed to the new surroundings, new people and new situations. Having a crate in the home gives them a safe place while they're adjusting to their new environment and a place to go when you have visitors.
- 5) **DO NOT** take this dog on trips away from your home, other than on walks around your neighborhood. Not even to visit dog-friendly places like dog parks, stores or restaurants. Save these activities for later, once you and the dog have formed a bond.

A few additional words of caution:

**DO NOT FORCE** the dog to sit and receive petting/attention from anyone.

**DO NOT PUSH** this dog to accept or tolerate new things, people or experiences. Please don't rush this dog's acclimation process. This dog needs time, consistency and patience in order to develop confidence, and to feel safe and secure in this new environment.

**DO NOT PUNISH** this dog for any perceived wrongdoing. Reward positive actions/interactions, but hold off on training until the dog trusts you and is able to relax and feel confident in this new household.

**DO NOT PITY** this dog. Coddling, fussing over or feeling sorry for this dog will not improve your relationship or raise the dog's self confidence or self esteem. It will only teach this dog that you support and encourage a hesitant and fearful mindset.

Here are some additional resources to review:

[Bringing Home a Fearful Dog](#)

[Help your Anxious or Fearful dog Gain Confidence](#)

[Tips and Tricks for Helping a Shy Dog Come Out of Its Shell](#)

[Helping the Shy or Fearful Dog](#)

[Introducing a Shy Dog to Strangers](#)

[Introducing Nervous Dogs to New People](#)

[The Best Way to Introduce Your Fearful Dog to New People](#)