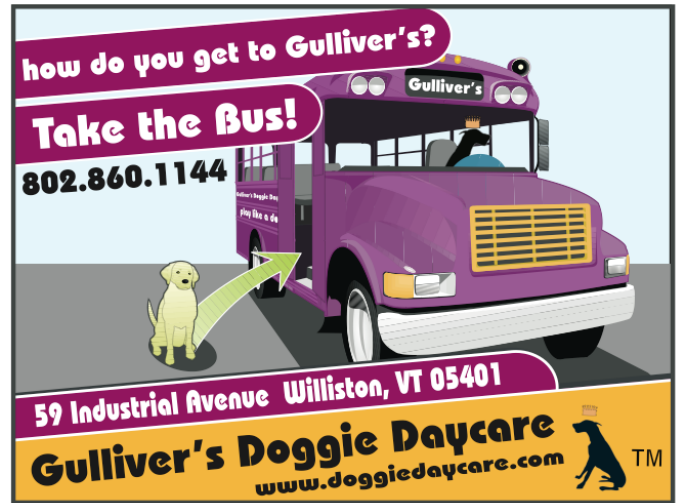


Welcome home!

So you've made your decision and are homebound with your new four-legged acquisition. Here are some things to think about. When you introduce your new pup to the other pack members, try to do it on neutral territory, such as in the neighbor's back yard. Keep in mind that your current household members may feel challenged by new competition on their turf, near their pack, and around their food. Although you want to shower the new guy in affection and start building your relationship, make sure that you aren't setting your other dog up for "jealousy." Reassure him that he is your number one pup by allowing him access to the best sleeping area, your attention, and food before you permit the new guy these things. The new guy will understand, and fit better into his new role than if you were to suddenly shift things around on dog number one. Give yourself time alone with each dog separately for play and bonding. And show some mercy, if you've brought home a spry young pup, your older dog may not appreciate his lack of manners, and constant pestering. It is a good idea to limit a puppy or new dog's living space, until you have such things as housebreaking and chewing under control. This will also help him adjust to the household gradually. And reserve a quiet space for your older dog. Set consistent rules for the newcomer. All members of the family should agree on the parameters that are set and abide by them. This will eliminate sending the new guy mixed messages about where he stands in the family structure, and what is and isn't acceptable. After your dog has settled in, a week or so to adjust and start to form routine, I suggest getting them to a training course, even a fun class, ASAP. Training not only teaches your dog new and interesting stuff, it builds trust and a bond between you. A dog can never have too much time spent learning how to make her owners happy! Most dogs begin to settle into life in a new home, and then start testing the boundaries. This usually occurs around 3-4 weeks after moving in. Like kids, they want to know what they can and can't get away with. This is where your consistent rules will save you! Keep reminding her of her place in the pack. Have patience; if you are consistent, most dogs are quick to settle into their new roles, and your life.



Tails From The Goofy Group

By Schu

Hello there, schu here again. The goofy group has been hopping lately, despite some real wintry weather. We don't mind where we play! In or out it's all about action with us! I have a new buddy; he's a rottie by the name of Archer Pickles! I can't forget to mention the little blur of motion zooming circles around the yard, that's Sophie! Bromley the chocolate lab and Dante the pit mix don't settle down one second! Those guys have what I call endurance; perhaps they should join my sled team! Zeeva, Vic and Meeka are German shepherds. They like to kick chunks of ice around, chasing it down and pouncing before it gets away! And then there is Polar and Bentley. These guys are Samoyeds, white, fluffy and sassy!

Here's a picture of the Goofy Group in action!

