

What to Expect the 1st night home

The First Night with Your New Pup

Your pup will be scared and lonely the first night, and howling is normal. You can make him feel secure by giving him a "den" in the form of a small dog crate. Many people recoil at the thought of crating a puppy, but a dog's instinct to den makes him learn to appreciate a close, dark shelter.

Gradually accustom the pup to his crate by putting him in throughout the day for a few minutes at a time. Throw a treat inside and give his food and water the first day in his crate. If the pup falls asleep on your lap or the floor, gently put him in his crate.

This will make the association with his crate positive.

At night, line his crate with a towel, put in a chew toy, and put the crate next to your bed--even up on a chair at mattress level. Don't make the mistake of moving him far away because he howls.

This only makes things worse for the lonely pup and prolongs the nights of noise. Instead, try throwing a towel over his crate to block his view--

A much more pleasant way to get over the first night agonies is simply to tuck the pup in bed with you. Yes, it is harder to wean him of this, and you'll still have to teach him to be quiet in his crate by the above methods, but you will have made a positive first impression of security and friendliness before you have to start introducing discipline.

