

TERRITORIAL OR WATCHDOG BEHAVIOR

Congratulations on adopting your new family member!

As your adoption counselor explained to you, your new dog has shown territorial behavior (watchdog behavior) while in the shelter or in the previous home. Dogs who show territorial behavior may growl and bark when defending their home and family from strangers. If not controlled, some of these dogs may bite. Most dogs who show territorial behavior are very friendly to family members.

If these guidelines are followed, you will be able to safely manage your dog and have a happy and long-lasting relationship with your new canine family member.

- Keep your dog within a reliable, conventional fence (not invisible) while on your property.
- Supervise your dog when outside. When supervising, you should be able to see your dog at all times.
- If your dog begins to bark, immediately call him or her into the house.
- Keep your dog leashed at all times when off your property.
- If your dog continues to show territorial behavior when a visitor comes to the door, leash your dog and take him or her away from the door before you open it for the visitor. Either tether your dog away from the door or put him or her in another room or crate. Allow your dog to greet your visitor after he or she is seated.
- If your dog is not friendly to your visitor, give your guest delicious treats to toss to your dog.
- Let your dog see that you clearly welcome your visitors (shake hands).
- Enroll your dog in a humane dog obedience class.

If you are not successful in curbing your dog's territorial behavior, please call your adoption counselor! He or she will be able to direct you to a person who can help you.