

Camp Cocker Rescue



# New Adopter Guide

Tips to help you  
and your wigglybutt  
get off to the  
right start.





# Congratulations on the new addition to your family!!!

We are so happy that you and your  
rescue have chosen each other!

Thank you for opening your heart to a  
Camp Cocker Rescue dog and offering  
him/her a life filled with love and care.

**If you ever need anything, please  
feel free to email us at  
[alumni@campcocker.com](mailto:alumni@campcocker.com)**





## Your Adopted Dog: The First Two Weeks

By Barb Pensky

Naturally, the first thing you want to do with your new dog is... everything! After all, isn't socialization one of the most important aspects of dog ownership? Yes. But before all of that comes the bond between dog and owner.

He might like you, but he doesn't know you yet. He's facing new people, new routines, and new rules all at once. He's stressed, and every additional challenge adds to the stress. Just like a human, our dog may react by becoming defensive and short-tempered, or fearful and shy.

"During these first weeks, avoid unnecessary stressors while the dog settles in, keep everything positive, and take it slowly."

You can make this transition easier on him by taking things slowly, and simplifying the introduction process. We call this the "Two Week Shutdown". During these first weeks, avoid unnecessary stressors while the dog settles in, keep everything positive, and take it slowly.

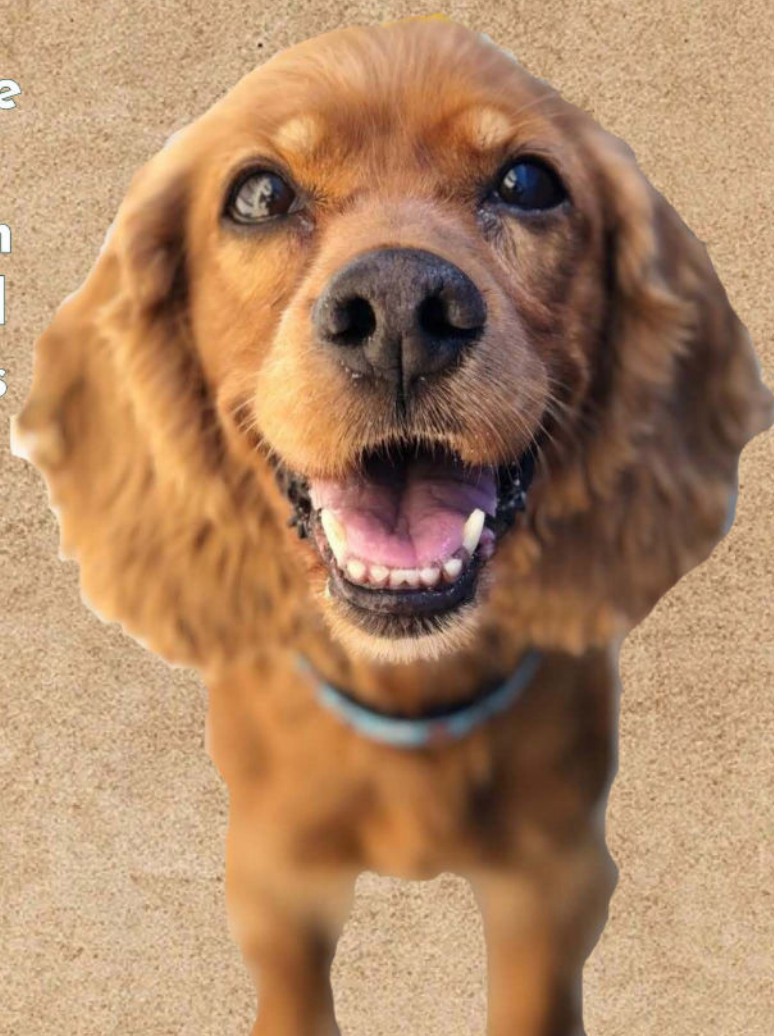


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## Helpful Tips from Barb for the first two weeks:

- Limit introductions to immediate family and caregivers. He doesn't need to meet your neighbors, your friends, and other animals yet.
- Avoid long, over stimulating walks. If you have a yard, use that for outside time. Your dog will manage just fine with minimal exercise for this period.
- Set him up to succeed. That means avoiding complicated training and socializing situations for now. Celebrating his successes together and avoiding harsh corrections will strengthen your bond.
- Use a crate. It will be a safe haven for him in a time of uncertainty. It also keeps him isolated from other pets, and helps him make good choices like NOT peeing inside or destroying your shoes.



**\*\*Barb Pensky is a Certified Dog trainer with Honors from CATCH Canine Trainers Academy. She is an accredited member of Pet Professional Guild and member of Association of Professional Dog Trainers. For more info please visit <http://www.pawsitivepupdogtraining.com/>**





## Potty Training 101

At Camp Cocker Rescue, we believe in training your dog with positive reinforcement. That means providing a positive reaction any time your dog achieves the appropriate behavior. Let's talk about what that means in regard to potty training.

First off, there is no way to know your rescue dog's history, so throughout the whole process, remember to take it slow and be compassionate.

Perhaps your pup was rescued from a hoarding situation, or they lived outside in someone's backyard, or maybe they were just never trained.



So many times dogs are given up because they aren't housetrained, but with training (and lots of praise and treats), your pup can be house-trained. It's all about consistency.





## Potty Training Tips

1.) Take your dog out on a regular schedule, especially after he or she eats, drinks, or wakes up. For a dog over 1 year old, it is recommended to take them out every hour when you're home until you figure out a potty routine.

When they go potty outside, reward them with lots of praise, treats, or even playtime with their favorite toy! To them, it's as if going potty outside unlocks the happiest side of you.



Most dogs want to please, so the more exaggerated you are when training and rewarding them, the more they will be eager to do it again!





## Potty Training Tips

2.) When you aren't home, crate training can be an excellent tool. There are some great resources online on how best to crate train your dog.

Here are some helpful tips from the Humane Society:

- Never use the crate as a punishment. Your dog will come to fear it and refuse to enter.
- Don't leave your dog in the crate too long. A dog who's crated all day and night doesn't get enough exercise or human interaction and can become depressed or anxious. You may have to change your schedule, hire a pet sitter or take your dog to a daycare facility to reduce the amount of time they spend in their crate each day.
- Puppies under six months of age shouldn't stay in a crate for more than three or four hours at a time. They can't control their bladders or bowels for that long. The same goes for adult dogs being housetrained. Physically, an older dog can hold it, but they don't know they're supposed to.
- Crate your dog only until you can trust them not to destroy the house. After that, it should be a place they go voluntarily.
- A crate may be your dog's den, but just as you would not spend your entire life in one room of your home, your dog should not spend most of their time in their crate.





## Potty Training Tips

3.) When you are home, keep your dog in your sight so they don't sneak off and pee in a room when you aren't watching. Baby gates are really helpful so that your dog is limited to certain areas of the house where you can keep a good eye on them.

If they do go to the bathroom in the house, you want to catch them in the act. Make an interrupter sound (like "eh" or clap your hands) and immediately take him or her outside to finish. Once they finish outside, reward them with lots of praise and a treat.

If your pup goes to the bathroom in the house and you don't catch him or her, chalk it up as your mistake and just clean it up. There's no point in yelling, scolding, or bringing your dog to the mess, because he or she won't understand the reason for the punishment. Never stick your dog's nose in its urine to "teach them." Focus your energy on creating as many positive experiences as possible to develop a wonderful, happy relationship with your new dog.

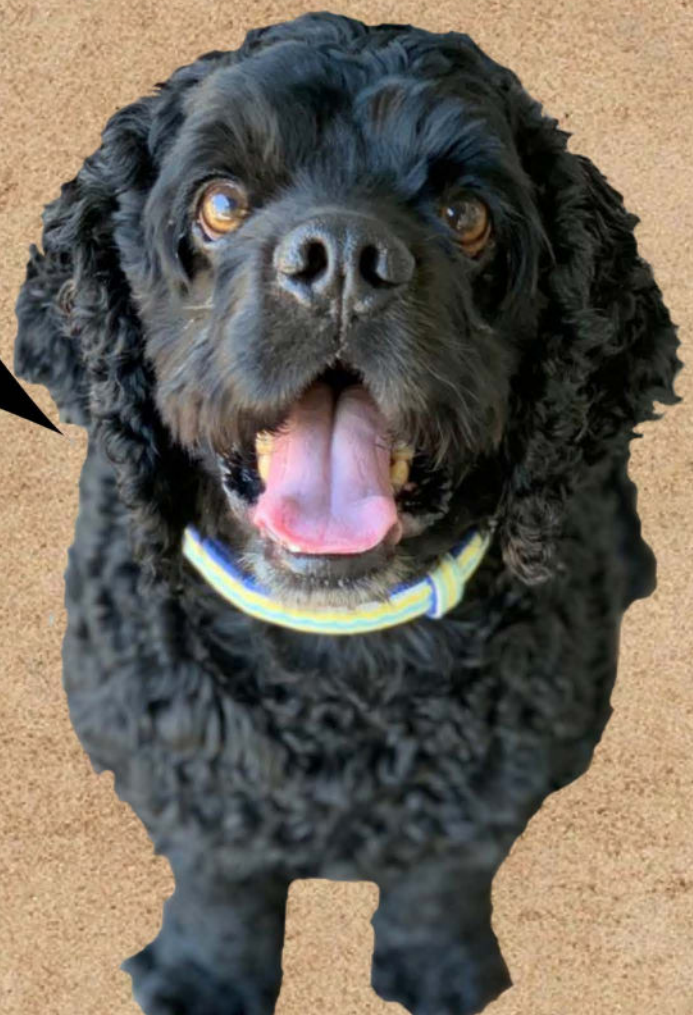




## Potty Training Tips

4.) Remember to be patient. Potty training can take around 6 months, so if your pup isn't getting it right away, don't fret. This is a marathon not a sprint, and some dogs pick up the routine quickly while others need lots of time to understand the routine. Consistency is key!

Please be patient.  
I need time  
to learn.



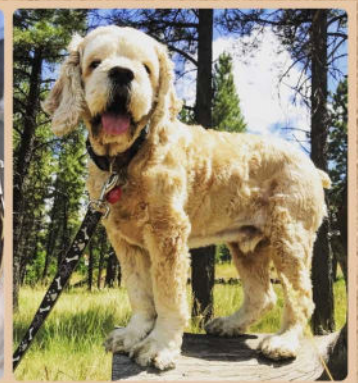
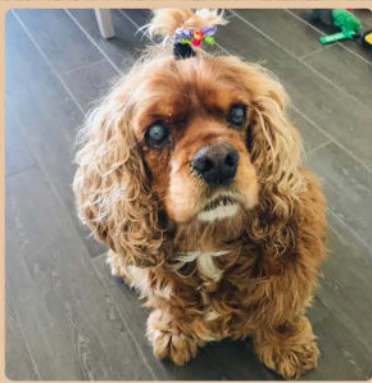


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## Alumni Instagram Pages

We LOVE when our adopters set up Instagram pages for their new fur babies! Feel free to start your own, and check out the list of other alumni doggies' Instagram pages at [campcocker.com/alumni-instagram-pages](http://campcocker.com/alumni-instagram-pages).



Your wigglybutt already has lots of fans! Please let us know if you set up an Instagram page for them and we'll add it to our website!



# Camp Cocker Rescue



## Alumni Facebook Page

Camp Cocker Rescue has a closed Facebook group for our adopters! This is a great community where people often share photos, updates and tips!

If you would like to join, please email [alumni@campcocker.com](mailto:alumni@campcocker.com) with your Facebook name and we'll send you an invitation.

Send an email to [alumni@campcocker.com](mailto:alumni@campcocker.com) for your invitation to the group!

