



New Baby Homecoming Plan

ARRANGE FOR YOUR DOG TO HAVE A BIG WALK/OUTING BEFORE YOU COME HOME

Making sure your dog is physically tired will help manage excitement/jumping up when you come home. Whatever tires your dog out most, arrange for that to happen before you are released from the hospital.

GO IN WITHOUT YOUR BABY TO GREET YOUR PETS WHILE YOUR HELPER SITS WITH THE BABY IN THE A/C

Your pet hasn't seen you in potentially a few days so go say hello as calmly as you possibly can.

AVOID HAPPY TALK

This is probably the hardest part! If happy talk gets your pet all worked up, don't do it. This initial meeting should be as calm as possible and not signal in any way to your pet that there is something they should be focusing on, or worried about.

CALMLY ENGAGE YOUR PET, THEN GET THEM SETTLED ON THEIR BED WITH A FROZEN FEEDING TOY

Have some treats on you and get your dog to perform a few tricks that they know to calmly focus their attention. Grab a frozen lick mat or whatever you have prepared from the fridge and get them settled on their bed.

HAVE YOUR HELPER BRING BABY IN QUIETLY AND CALMLY

Let your helper know that you are ready and have them bring the baby into the house *without any fuss*. Bring everything in and get settled as if you just came home from grocery shopping. Nothing weird, nothing to be worried about.

AS LONG AS YOUR DOG IS CALM, GET YOU AND BABY SETTLED WITHOUT PLACING BABY ON THE GROUND

Despite what you have seen, do not place the baby on the ground. This is your dogs' first time to meet the new addition and you don't know how they are going to react so don't risk pushing them beyond their threshold. As long as your dog is being calm they can hang out and see what is going on. If your pet is excited, use baby gates and separation areas to keep you and the baby safe or get your helper to take the dog for a walk to cool off.



REMEMBER. YOU'VE GOT LOTS OF TIME FOR THIS. DON'T RISK PUSHING YOUR PET BEYOND THEIR COMFORT ZONE BY RUSHING THE PROCESS.