

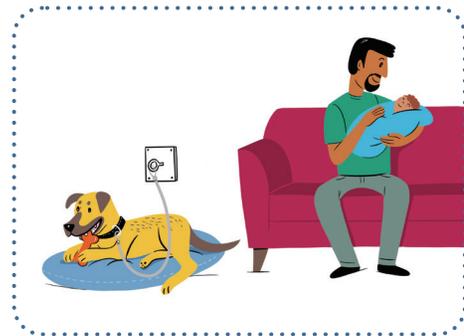
A **SUCCESS STATION** is any designated spot that a dog is limited to so that they have an increased **chance to succeed**. Success stations are introduced gradually in a positive way and are used for **limited periods of time**. This handout will cover 4 types of success stations new and expecting families find helpful as they include their family dogs. We strongly encourage practicing several success stations long before a baby's arrival. Success stations will need to be evaluated regularly for safety and will likely need to be adjusted as your baby reaches new milestones.

TETHERING

CRATE

GATES

COMBO



Tethering can be a great way to include dogs in the daily routines with newborn babies. Many caregivers feel more comfortable with their dog in their success station especially during the Homecoming phase (the first 3 months). Caretakers are able to move around and toss treats while the dog is able to observe the baby without any type of physical barrier. ***Once a baby is able to roll, crawl, or move, a tether is no longer a safe option and should be discontinued.***

Crates can be wonderful, safe, cozy condos for dogs. There are many types of crates and we encourage you to find the right fit for your dog. It's important to consider your dog's emotional state while in the crate. Often a crate does not allow us to observe how our dog is handling situations. Carefully consider the location of the crate and keep in mind this may need to change as your baby becomes mobile.

Gates can really come in handy at times to set up a boundary between babies and dogs. Please consider the type of gate that you get. Many dogs can easily push the pedal or push gates open with their nose. Choose carefully which gate will meet your needs. Play yards may be a helpful option as well. Be creative and proactive. Proactively practice and prepare ahead with your dog by providing positive experiences with gates or play yards prior to bringing your baby home.

Sometimes using 2 types of success stations together can lead to the safest option. This is especially true as babies become mobile and curious. Preventing a child from approaching a dog in their success station is important and a combined option may be most helpful. For example, you may find it helpful to put up a gate in a doorway so your mobile baby cannot directly approach your dog resting in their crate. Combinations can help create "buffers" so your dog and baby are not coming into direct access with one another through a barrier.

This handout briefly describes four possible options we recommend. Always consider the individual needs of your dog. We suggest introducing success stations slowly to allow your dog to build a positive association and comfort with their special space. If you need other choices, please do not hesitate to contact a Family Paws Educator for individual guidance. Babies grow, dogs age and management must adjust at every stage.