



FREE TO PASS ON

mohamedabukhadra.com

The first day he is yours



Fill this in before anything else happens



Mohamed Abu Khadra



AUTHOR OF BEFORE YOU SAY YES TO THE DOG AND AFTER YOU SAY YES TO THE DOG

SYSTEM FIRST. PUPPY SECOND. FAMILY ALWAYS.

Today

Somebody handed you this with the dog.

Not later tonight, not at the weekend — now, in the next twenty minutes, before anything else happens. Fill in the first page. Names, his name, the date, who is Dad, who is the backup adult, which jobs the children have. Put the vet's number on the phone tree before anyone needs it.

It takes less time than unpacking the car and it is the difference between a household that is running a system and one that is improvising from the first hour.

The first night is in here too, because the first night is where most of the early mistakes are made, usually out of kindness.

Keep this where the family can see it. It is meant to be written on.

IN HERE

this dog belongs to — fill it in ♦ the emergency phone tree ♦ the first night ♦ the five family words ♦ where he can be, and where he cannot ♦ the day you have nothing left

In my house it was Mum. In yours it could be anyone. Read it that way.

This dog belongs to

Item	Write it here
Family name	_____
Dog's name	_____
Breed / mix (if known)	_____
Came-home date	_____
Dad	_____
Backup Adult	_____
Kids	_____

The emergency phone tree

Fill this before the puppy arrives. Do not search for numbers during an emergency.

Contact	Name	Phone
Dad	-----	-----
Mum	-----	-----
Vet clinic	-----	-----
24h clinic	-----	-----
Trainer	-----	-----
Backup adult	-----	-----
Compound / building security	-----	-----

Emergency rule for kids: if anything feels unsafe, secure the dog if safe to do so, move away, and call Dad.

The first night

The first night may well be hard. The puppy may whine because he is lonely, over-tired, confused, or needs the toilet — none of which means he hates his new family. He is a baby in a strange place. The rule for the night is narrow on purpose: toilet only, no play, no party. If he whines briefly, wait 30–60 seconds. If it might be the toilet, an adult handles a quiet trip — out, a chance to go, a calm GOOD BOY if he does, and back to BOX. No long talk, no lights and excitement if it can be helped, no children joining in, no cuddle session. If the night becomes entertainment, night problems grow; what he should learn is that night is quiet, the toilet is boring, BOX means sleep, and an adult handles it.

Night 1 may include protest. The mission is to teach that whining does not open entertainment.

If This Happens	Response
Brief whining	Wait 30–60 seconds. Do not rush in.
Still whining and likely POTTY timing	Silent POTTY trip. 2–3 minutes max.
Puppy toilets	GOOD BOY calmly. Back to BOX.
No POTTY	Back to BOX. No play. No talking.
Kids wake up	No talking, no petting, no lights-on party. Call Dad if unsure.
Wants attention	Keep night boring. Calm earns freedom later.

Night rule: POTTY only. No play. No party.

The five family words

Same words. Same meaning. Every time. Use the complete set — do not invent extra words.

Word	Meaning	Family Rule
BOX NOW	Urgent safety command	No debate. No delay. Secure immediately
LEAVE IT	Do not touch that	Best before the puppy grabs it
DROP IT	Release what is in your mouth	Trade if safe
COME	Come to me	Use in safe, easy settings first
WAIT	Pause before moving	Use at doors, food, movement, gates later

Where he can be, and where he cannot

The puppy needs a map before he needs freedom. Use clear zones from Day 0.

Zone	Purpose	Setup Standard
BOX zone	Sleep, rest, safe containment.	Safe, quiet, clean, easy to access, away from teasing and heavy traffic.
POTTY zone	Same toilet place and routine.	One consistent corner. Easy to reach and clean. Not the main play zone.
Food / water zone	Eating and drinking.	Stable bowls, easy cleaning, no guest feeding, no kids teasing.
PLACE zone	Calm spot near family.	Mat, bed, towel, or raised bed near people but not in chaos.
Supervised family area	Limited safe area for controlled time.	Only when watched. Barriers ready. Unsafe items removed.
Puppy-free spaces	Rooms or areas protected for Mum and family.	Doors, gates, or clear rules. No “quick visits.”

Do not give the puppy the whole house. A young puppy with too much space will make his own rules.

The day you have nothing left

When the family cannot run the full system, run the minimum and reset tomorrow. This is the standalone survival card.

- food and fresh water;
- toilet trips on time, often enough to avoid accidents;
- a little safe movement, even just leashed pottering;
- accidents cleaned calmly, with no blame;
- protected, genuine rest in the resting place and the calm place;
- one small useful activity, no more — a treat scatter, the name game, a PLACE reward, a calm chew, short sniffing, or two minutes of quiet attention;
- Mum's space protected, with no forced contact, and SAFE honoured;
- and the truth told to Dad, simply, so tomorrow starts clean — today was a minimum day.

That is minimum viable stability. It is enough for one bad day.

Why this exists

I am not a dog trainer. I am not a vet, not a breeder, not a professional from the dog industry.

That may be exactly why this helps. None of it was written from theory or from a training room. It came out of real family failure and real household pressure.

I raised dogs before I had a family. I loved them, and I believed I knew what I was doing. Then, a few months after I married, my dog died, and I grieved him more than anyone who has never loved a dog would understand.

Years later I brought a dog into my family, and it failed. My wife had a real fear of dogs. My children loved the puppy and kept breaking the rules without meaning to. He learned one thing from me, another from the children, and something else again from the house. I rehomed him.

A few years later I thought the problem had been timing. The children were older. We were ready. We were not. Same failure — taller children, a different name, the same pattern.

A few years after that, it happened again.

Three dogs. Koudy, Milo and Snoopy. All three went on to families who could give them what mine could not. My children still see them.

Love was there. Experience was there. It failed anyway.

So I stopped asking why the dog had failed and started asking better questions. What repeated across all three? Where did it break? Who carried the risk, and who carried the daily routine? Who was being pushed into discomfort? What did the puppy learn from us without our noticing?

The answer was simple and uncomfortable. Love was present. A system was not.

Sometimes the dog was trained, but the house was not.

So I built one — on paper, for my own children, before the fourth dog arrived.

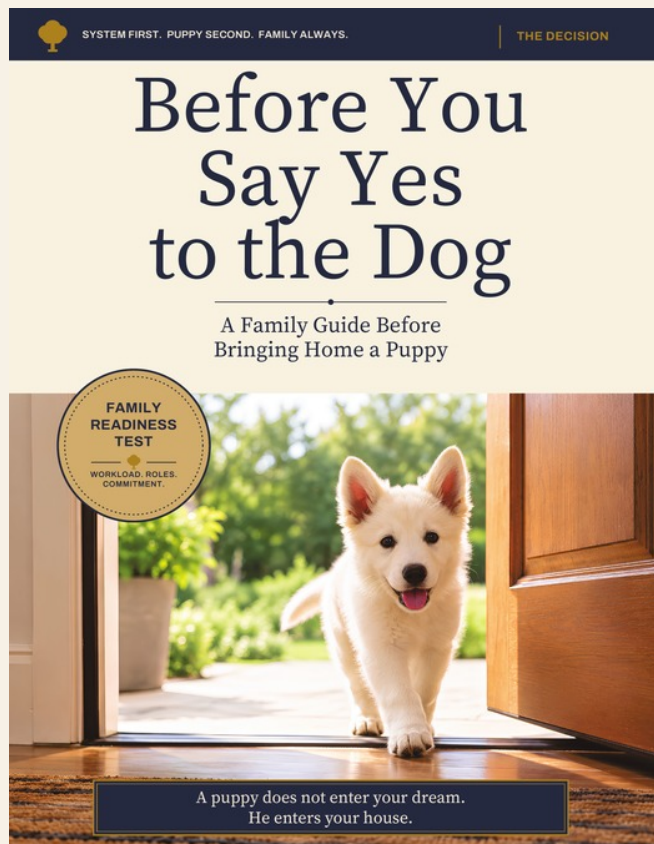
He stayed. His name is Oden.

These pages are part of that system. I am doing the thing I wished someone had done for me.

Somebody gave you this. If it was useful, it is free to pass on — and everything else is at mohamedabukhadra.com.

I wrote this for my family. Then I shared it with the people I thought might get something from it. Use it, ignore it, or write back and tell me how to make it better. Up to you.

The two books



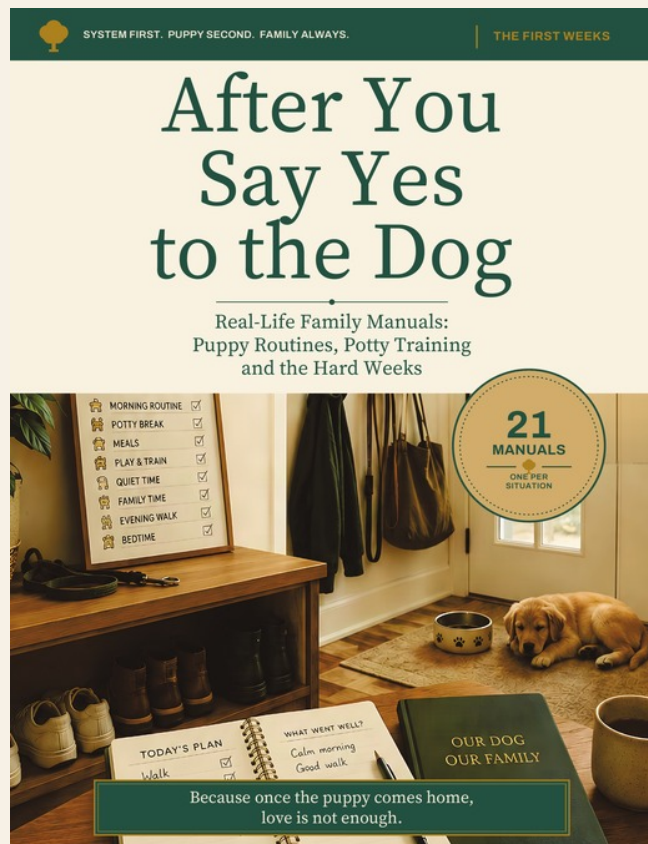
Mohamed Abu Khadra

Before You Say Yes to the Dog

A Family Guide Before Bringing Home a Puppy

The decision before the decision. The real workload before it lands on one person. Who actually does what, including the children. A real say for whoever feels least ready. It ends at a test with three answers — Let's get the puppy, Maybe later, Not for us — and each one, given honestly, is a good answer.

21 chapters. One readiness test.



Mohamed Abu Khadra

After You Say Yes to the Dog

Real-Life Family Manuals: Puppy Routines, Potty Training and the Hard Weeks

One manual per pressure moment: the first forty-eight hours, potty, socialisation, night barking, visitors, outdoor freedom, grooming, emergencies, and the reset. Printable routines you use on the day, not read about.

21 manuals. One per situation.

Read to know. Use to do.

Paperback and Kindle. mohamedabukhadra.com

THIS PACK mohamedabukhadra.com/help/go-home

For professionals

I also built software for the people who do this for a living. It is called Oden, after the dog.

Oden Pet Operating System — one system with specialised tracks by profession. Canine behaviourists and dog trainers today. Shelters and rescues next, with other professions following.

oden.pet/readers · code HOME-FIRSTDAY

30% off your first year, monthly or yearly. Third-party services excluded. Terms apply — see oden.pet/readers.

Not a professional yourself? Pass this code to your trainer or behaviourist.

Terms

© 2026 Mohamed Abu Khadra. All rights reserved.

This document is an extract from *Before You Say Yes to the Dog* and *After You Say Yes to the Dog* by Mohamed Abu Khadra (Oden House).

Share it as it is. Forward it as it is.

Print it, copy it, email it, hand it out — freely, at no cost. Give it to clients, families, members, students, staff. No permission needed.

Three conditions: do not sell it, or include it in anything sold · do not cut from it, extract parts, or alter it · keep it whole, with the author's name on it.

For a different format or an adapted version, write to mo@mohamedabukhadra.com. Requests from shelters, rescues and non-profit programmes are welcome and usually granted.

Disclaimer

This document is provided for general informational purposes only. It does not constitute veterinary, behavioural, training, medical, psychological, legal, or professional advice of any kind, and no professional relationship is created by reading or using it.

This document is a practical family operating and educational guide. It is designed to help families think clearly, prepare responsibly, assign roles, reduce chaos, and make better decisions before and after bringing a puppy home. It is not a substitute for professional veterinary care, medical advice, certified dog training, behaviour consultation, legal advice, or emergency judgment. It is not an obedience or training programme.

The author is not a veterinarian, animal behaviourist, dog trainer, or licensed professional in any relevant field. The material describes personal experience within one household. It has not been scientifically researched, clinically tested, peer-reviewed, or professionally validated. No representation or warranty is made, express or implied, as to its accuracy, completeness, suitability, or fitness for any purpose. Results vary by household, by animal, and by circumstance. No outcome is promised or implied.

Assumption of risk. Any decision to apply this material, in whole or in part, is made solely at the reader's own risk and discretion. The reader is responsible for their own safety and for the safety of all persons and animals in their household.

Interpersonal and household risk. This document addresses roles, responsibilities and boundaries within a household. Conversations about these matters can create disagreement or conflict. The reader is solely responsible for assessing whether raising, discussing, or attempting to implement any part of this material is safe and appropriate in their own circumstances, and for deciding not to do so. Any reader who has reason to fear an adverse, hostile, coercive, or violent reaction from any person should not use this material and should seek assistance from an appropriate qualified professional or support service.

Animal risk. Living with a dog carries inherent risks. Any dog may bite or cause injury regardless of breed, size, temperament, or training. Where a dog displays aggression, fear, guarding, or any behaviour that gives cause for concern, a certified trainer, qualified behaviourist, or veterinarian must be consulted regarding that specific animal before any action is taken. Children must never be left unsupervised with a dog.

Large-breed dogs can grow into strong, powerful animals. Adult supervision, safe handling, suitable training, and professional support are the responsibility of the family. Children should never be responsible for dangerous decisions, emergency handling, strong leash control, unknown objects, medical situations, unsafe behaviour, or bite-risk scenarios.

For health concerns, vaccination, feeding, medication, injury, illness, poisoning, breathing difficulty, collapse, bloat signs, severe fear, aggression, dangerous behaviour, bite risk, or any situation where the dog or family may be at risk, contact the appropriate qualified professional immediately.

When safety is unclear: Separate. Call. Go.

Limitation of liability. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the author and publisher exclude all liability for any loss, injury, damage, or harm of any kind – direct, indirect, consequential, physical, psychological, financial, or otherwise – arising from or connected to the use, misuse, application, or non-application of this material, or from any act or omission of any third party in response to it. By reading this document, the reader accepts these terms in full.