



DOING MORE™ *through grooming*

Regular grooming sessions do more than just keep your dog clean and healthy. They also strengthen your bond with him and allow you to check his appearance to make sure he stays in peak condition.

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BRUSHING AND COMBING

Most dogs love being brushed and combed, especially if you hold the skin tight with one hand and brush with the other, so it doesn't pull.

- Shorthaired breeds should be brushed two or three times a week with a soft or medium bristle brush, rubber curry or grooming glove, and a fine-tooth comb.
- Medium-length hair, woolly coats or curly hair should be groomed often with a wire pin brush and a wide-tooth comb.
- Longhaired breeds require daily brushing with a soft, natural bristle brush and a wide-tooth comb. Matted, tangled hair may require special lubricants or mat combs. Grooming several times per week will help prevent this problem.
- Terriers may require a periodic plucking to remove dead hair and give them a trim appearance.

BATHING

- Give your dog a bath only when he needs it. Frequent bathing can dry out the skin and coat.
- Use a quality dog shampoo and rinse well after shampooing because soap can irritate your dog's delicate skin.
- A dry bath may be a good alternative in cold weather. Dry bath products, available in pet specialty stores, are rubbed into coat and then brushed out.

DENTAL CARE

It's important to care for your dog's teeth. Plaque, a sticky, colorless film, continuously forms on your dog's teeth. Removing plaque prevents it from turning into a cement-like substance, called tarter, at the gumline. The build-up of tarter can lead to periodontal disease in which bacteria infects the gum tissue and the roots of the teeth.

Untreated, periodontal disease causes the gums to recede and the teeth will eventually fall out. Moreover, a diseased mouth can cause or worsen other conditions such as diseases of the heart, kidneys and respiratory system. Start your dog on a program of regular dental check-ups during his annual veterinarian visits. Proper professional care is the only way to prevent dental disease.

Between professional cleanings there are measures you can take to keep your dog's teeth clean.

- Provide your dog with something to chew on that will act as a scraper and help prevent tarter build-up. Dry dog food and treats can help reduce the formation of plaque.
- Brush your dog's teeth at least every day. Start this program by gently massaging your pet's teeth and gums with your fingertip until he's used to having his mouth handled. Then begin by swabbing the outer surface of the teeth with a square of gauze. After he becomes used to this, switch to a pet toothbrush or a child-size toothbrush, using a special toothpaste made for pets. Ask your veterinarian for details.

Proper dental care is something you can take an active role in during the life of your dog. Be sure to always supplement your care with regular professional cleanings from your veterinarian.

CARE OF EYES AND EARS

During the grooming session, check the condition of your dog's body, especially his eyes and ears.

If your dog is prone to a slight eye discharge (your veterinarian can tell you what to expect), wipe the eyes daily with water-soaked cotton.

Trim away any excess hair that might prevent air from getting into his ears.

Your veterinarian can also tell you whether your dog's ears need regular cleaning with a special cleaning solution, which is usually applied once a week. This can be especially helpful with dogs that swim frequently.

NAIL CARE

Keeping your dog's nails clipped to the proper length is essential to his health and comfort. Get your dog used to the feel of your hands on his paws by inspecting them when you groom him. In order to avoid nipping the "quick" of the nails, ask your groomer or veterinarian to show you how to clip your dogs nails or have a groomer do the job for you.



DOING MORE™ *when it's time to travel*

If your dog joins you on a vacation, you'll be doing more in a truly unique and exciting way. However, sometimes traveling with a pet isn't a possibility. In these circumstances, it's important to know the options available when deciding to leave him at home.

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Leaving Your Dog At Home

Boarding your dog or hiring a pet sitter are options if you decide to leave your dog behind. In either case, here are some general tips:

- Ask your veterinarian or other pet owners to recommend reputable boarding facilities or pet sitters.
- If boarding, visit the facility to check the safety and cleanliness of the operation. If hiring a pet sitter, meet the sitter in your home to see how she and your dog interact.
- Many facilities book up early, especially over holidays, so make reservations in advance.
- Make sure your dog is current on all required vaccinations.
- If your dog is on medication, leave an ample supply and clear instructions.
- Leave feeding instructions and a supply of your dog's regular food.
- Make sure your dog wears a collar with identification tags.
- Leave your veterinarian's office and emergency numbers.
- Leave a number where you can be reached.

Taking Your Dog Along

- Call ahead to make sure your dog will be welcome at the hotels, homes or parks where you will be staying.
- Take along your dog's regular food, medications, water, bedding and favorite toys.
- Make sure your dog has a collar with an identification tag containing your name and telephone number (including area code). Pack a photo of your dog for identification, in case he gets lost.
- Never leave your dog loose in a hotel room when you are not there. Keep him confined in his crate and check on him frequently. When taking him out of the room, keep him on a leash at all times.
- When traveling in a vehicle with your dog, keep him confined to a carrier. Never let him ride in the back of a truck or with his head out the window.

Air Travel

Airline travel can be stressful for pets. If possible, book direct flights in advance and avoid holiday bookings. Arrive at the airport earlier than required to be sure check-in goes smoothly. Some airlines allow pets to travel in the cargo sections of their planes for a nominal fee. If your pet must travel in the cargo section, avoid flying when the weather is extremely cold or extremely hot. Some airlines allow a limited number of very small pets to travel under seats in the passenger cabin. Check with your airline for specific rules and restrictions.



DOING MORE™ *with training & behavior*

An important part of sharing a beautiful life with your dog is with proper training. Possibly one of the most vital steps to successful training is learning to communicate with each other in an open and understanding way.

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Dog-proofing Your Home

When bringing a rescued dog into your home, you often don't know about his old habits. Dog-proofing can help protect your home from damage until you know your dog can be trusted without supervision.

Items you don't want your dog to have should be stored in a place that he can't access, like a closet or cabinet with a door you can keep closed. Cabinet locks made for young children can be used to secure cabinet doors within your dog's reach. Areas of your home that you don't want your dog to visit unsupervised should be blocked by a closed door or baby gate.

Dog-proofing is also a matter of safety for your dog. Poisonous plants may be appealing to your dog and should be kept either out of his reach or out of the house entirely. (Ask your veterinarian for a list of plants that should be kept out of your pet's reach.) Poisonous household products (like those used for cleaning or for auto maintenance, including antifreeze) should be safely stored where your dog can't get to them, as some have an attractive scent. Electrical cords should be hidden from your dog or wrapped to prevent him from chewing them. Replace mouse or rat poison with humane traps, as dogs may ingest harmful poison or eat rodents that have ingested poison, both of which are dangerous to your dog's health.

Preventing Problem Behaviors

In addition to dog-proofing your home, there are other things you can do to help prevent unwanted behaviors from cropping up. Since many unwanted behaviors arise out of boredom, keep your dog active, and make sure he has appropriate outlets for his energy. Obedience training is essential in teaching your dog the appropriate behaviors. This brochure includes a Training section with helpful advice on clicker training.

Exercise should also be a part of your dog's daily routine to keep him in top physical condition and to allow for exertion of energy. Consider your dog's age, stamina, and overall physical capabilities and choose an appropriate exercise routine accordingly. For example, a walk around the block may suffice one dog's exercise needs, but for another dog it may seem like just a warm-up.



Exercise should also be a part of your dog's daily routine

Providing interactive toys for your dog will keep him occupied and active even when you're not home. Interactive toys are hollow inside so you can insert food or treats. Your dog will have to figure out how to extract the food, keeping him busy for longer than traditional chew toys. Choose toys durable enough for your dog's level of chewing, such as hard rubber toys, and without small pieces that could potentially pose a choking hazard.



Basic Training Exercises

Dogs of all breeds and all ages can benefit from training. Your training sessions should be kept short (around 15 minutes) and upbeat to prevent your dog from becoming bored. For best results, begin training your dog in a quiet, distraction-free location. Don't push your dog too hard, and only move on to more difficult exercises when you feel your dog is ready. Keep your dog motivated by praising and rewarding him when he performs the exercise well.

CLICKER TRAINING

Clicker training is based on the principles of Skinner's operant conditioning and Pavlov's classical conditioning. The idea is that your dog, or any other animal, can learn to associate an auditory signal, like the clicker, with a reward, like food. When paired with food for several repetitions, the clicker becomes a promise of a reward to come for a job well done. The clicker is more effective than simply saying, "Good dog," because the sound is clear and constant. The clicker helps your dog become a motivated, active learner and can actually speed training because it is a positive reward-based system. The clicker is often paired with a food reward because most dogs have an inborn willingness to work for food. However, many dogs are equally motivated by toys and play, so use the reward your dog responds to best.



Clicker training is just one method of dog training. Contact your veterinarian or local obedience training school for information about other methods.

The exercises below can easily be taught to your dog with a clicker and soft, bite-sized treats. We recommend keeping your dog on a leash during training, especially if you are outside in an unfenced area.

SIT

1. Holding the treat slightly in front of your dog's nose, slowly raise it in an upward arc with your right hand to lure your dog into the sit position.
2. The moment your dog sits, click and reward him with a treat.
3. Once your dog understands the motion he is to perform, pair the word, "Sit," with his action, and then click and reward him when he does it.
4. You can gradually increase the amount of time your dog stays in the sit position by slightly delaying the click and reward with each session.

DOWN

1. With a treat in your right hand, give your dog the "Sit" command and lower the treat toward the ground slowly enough for your dog to follow its path.
2. The moment your dog has his hindquarters and elbows on the ground, click and reward him.
3. Once your dog understands the motion he is to perform, pair the word, "Down," with his action, and then click and reward him when he does it.
4. You can gradually increase the amount of time your dog stays in the down position by slightly delaying the click and reward with each session.

Note: Some dogs may resist going into a down because it is a subordinate position. If your dog displays any aggressiveness when going into this position, contact a certified training specialist or your veterinarian for advice.

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PLACE/STAY

The Place command is to teach your dog a boundary stay for an extended period of time. Practice this exercise on a dog bed with distinct edges or with a slightly elevated surface. Your dog can do as he likes while on his place, as long as he does not come off.

1. With a treat in your right hand, slowly lure your dog onto the bed.
2. The moment all four of his paws are on the bed, click and reward him with the treat.
3. Once your dog understands the motion he is to perform, pair the word "Place" with his action, and then click and reward him when he does it.
4. You can gradually increase the amount of time your dog stays on his place by slightly delaying the click and reward with each session. Your dog should eventually be able to stay on his place even when you are not right next to him.

WALKING ON A LOOSE LEASH/HEELING

1. Hold the end of your dog's leash and the clicker in your right hand and a treat in your left hand. The leash should be loose enough to form a slight loop between you and your dog.
2. Walk forward and encourage your dog to walk along with you. If your dog charges ahead, stop walking and wait for him to return to you. Click and reward your dog with a treat when the leash is loose again.
3. Resume walking, clicking and rewarding your dog as he remains by your side. If he pulls on the leash, stop and repeat the above steps until he learns he is rewarded only when he stays close to you when walking.

RECALL/COME WHEN CALLED

The recall is the most important exercise to teach your dog for safety. Your dog should learn that coming to you is a good experience. Never punish your dog for coming to you. This exercise should first be taught on leash in a secure area.

1. Hold the end of your leash and a clicker in your right hand and a treat in your left hand.
2. When your dog becomes distracted, hold the treat in front of his nose. Once your dog shows interest in the treat, back away with your treat hand extended in front of you to lure him towards you.
3. As you are backing away, bring the treat close to your body and click and reward your dog when he reaches you.
4. Once your dog understands he is rewarded for coming to you, pair it with the word, "Come," when you want him to come to you.
5. Gradually increase the distance you call your dog from with the use of a 20-30 foot long-line leash.

Information provided by the training and behavior specialists at Triple Crown Dog Academy, Inc. World Leader in Pet Education. Visit online at www.triplecrowndogs.com

For more training and behavior solutions, visit Triple Crown's free resource center at www.aboutdogtraining.com.



Problem Solving

It's important to remember that each dog is an individual with his own past experiences that help to develop his personality. There are no bad dogs, just dogs that haven't had the chance to become their best through good experience and proper training.

SEPARATION ANXIETY

Separation anxiety is a condition where a dog exhibits distress when left alone. A dog with separation anxiety may display behaviors like over-vocalization, destruction, and/or house soiling when the owner leaves. To prevent your dog from harming himself, keep him in a crate or dog-proofed room when you leave. Provide him with a special interactive toy that he only receives when he is left alone. The activity will help your dog remain calm and keep his mind off being left alone. Always allow your dog the opportunity to eliminate before you leave, as well as immediately after you return home.

Downplay your departures and arrivals so your dog doesn't become overly excited during these times. Never punish your dog if you come home to an accident on the floor or a destroyed item, as this can increase your dog's anxiety. Instead, clean up the mess and go about your normal routine. With patience, your dog can overcome his stress and grow to be comfortable with being left alone.

DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIORS

Dogs do not destroy items around the house for spite; they simply need to be given something to do. Most often, destructive behaviors are an outgrowth of boredom or a lack of suitable outlets for their energy. Providing your dog with interaction and suitable activities will help prevent him from getting into the habit of browsing your home and yard for playthings.



CHEWING

Chewing is a natural behavior for dogs. It can be calming for them in stressful times, as well as an activity to occupy them. Puppies typically begin chewing more noticeably around four to six months of age to soothe sore gums when they are teething. The behavior is then sometimes inadvertently reinforced by owners who chase their dog to retrieve the chewed item. Never punish your dog after finding a chewed item.

To prevent your dog from chewing inappropriate items around your home, pick up any item you don't want to end up in your dog's mouth and keep it out of reach. Avoid giving your dog your old shoes or old children's toys to chew on, as he won't know the difference between his chew toy and your wanted belongings. Instead, provide your dog with his own toys to chew on. Make sure the chew toys you provide are durable enough to withstand your dog's level of chewing. Toys with small pieces or ones that can easily be destroyed can become a choking hazard. If you catch your dog chewing on an inappropriate item, interrupt him with a noisy distraction. Then redirect him to one of his chew toys and click and reward him with it. (See Training section for more information on clicker training.)

DIGGING

Digging is also a natural behavior for dogs. Determining the reason your dog digs is the first step to keeping your yard intact. Dogs may dig to find a cool spot or to bury a toy for safekeeping. Digging may even be inherent for some breeds, including terriers, once bred to hunt burrowing animals. Some dogs may also dig to escape their enclosure or out of sheer boredom.

Provide your dog with a comfortable shaded area in your yard to prevent him from digging to cooler ground. Consider providing a sandbox as an appropriate digging area, and bury toys or treats in the sand to encourage your dog to dig there. If your dog digs to escape from the yard, consider keeping him inside your home in a dog-proofed room or a crate for safety. To prevent your dog from digging out of boredom, make certain he receives adequate exercise and interaction. Never punish your dog after finding a hole dug in the yard. If you catch your dog digging in the yard, interrupt him with a noisy distraction. Then redirect him to an appropriate behavior or a toy and click and reward him.

GETTING INTO THE TRASH

Dogs often get into the trash because they are scavenging for the items inside that smell appealing to them. After all, dogs are programmed to seek out food wherever they can find it. If your rescued dog was once a stray, this scavenger instinct may have even been an important part of his survival. The best method to end this habit is to prevent your dog from having access to your trashcan. Use a trashcan with a secure lid. Keep it in a room or cabinet with a door you can keep closed. Never punish your dog if you see that he has gotten into the trash. If you catch him in the act, interrupt him with a noisy distraction. Then redirect him to an appropriate toy or behavior and click and reward him.

NUISANCE BEHAVIORS

Nuisance behaviors are inappropriate behaviors that can become an embarrassment to you and obnoxious to your guests and neighbors. These behaviors are often born from boredom or attention-seeking. With patience, a clicker, and treats, you can easily teach your dog appropriate behaviors to replace the inappropriate ones. Making sure your dog receives daily training and exercise will help prevent these problems from cropping up.

House-training Your New Dog



BARKING

A dog that barks incessantly can quickly become a noisy nuisance to you and everyone within earshot. Barking is sometimes a frustration reaction to outside stimuli, an alarm to alert you of an intruder on your property, or an outgrowth of boredom. When you are unable to supervise your dog, confine him to his crate or dog-proofed room where you can control his surroundings. Make certain your dog receives plenty of daily exercise, and provide interactive toys when you are away to keep him occupied.

Training will also help quiet a barking dog. By first teaching your dog to speak on command, you can then teach him to be quiet on command. These two exercises can be taught simultaneously. Have a friend help by standing outside your door. Tell your dog to speak, just before your friend knocks to induce barking. Then, hold a treat close to his nose and tell him, "Quiet." Since your dog can't bark and eat at the same time, he will stop barking. Reward him with the treat when he is quiet. With practice and consistency, your dog will quickly learn to remain quiet.

JUMPING UP

Jumping up is a habit many dogs learn as a way to receive attention. Often when a dog jumps on his owner, the owner inadvertently reinforces the behavior with petting or trying to push the dog away. It quickly turns into a game and the dog realizes that when he wants attention, he only has to jump on his owner to receive it.

Instead of going along with the game, ignore your dog when he jumps up on you. When he stops jumping, praise him or redirect him into another behavior, such as sitting, and click and reward him when he does it. Your dog will learn that sitting will get him the attention he seeks, while jumping will result in nothing.

Of all training exercises you will teach your new dog, house-training is the one that most pet owners want to accomplish first. Before you bring your new dog home, have a house-training plan in place that you and your family can implement right away. Keep in mind that young dogs and small dogs are often not able to go without eliminating for as long as adult dogs and larger dogs, so your house-training plan will need to accommodate your dog's specific needs.

Preventing your dog from eliminating in the house will keep this behavior from becoming a habit. Pay attention to your dog's actions and take him to his potty area after he eats, wakes up, is released from his dog-proofed area, and any time he displays pre-elimination behavior, such as circling, sniffing, or pacing.

Even if your new dog has already been house-trained, he will still need to be shown the location of his elimination area. Several house-training options are available depending on your preferences and lifestyle.

OUTDOOR TRAINING

If you plan to use an area outside for your dog's elimination area, begin by taking him on leash to his potty area. Praise and reward him with a treat or toy when he eliminates there. Rewarding your dog immediately after he is finished is important so you can catch and reinforce his good behavior at the right moment. Rewarding him after he comes back inside allows too much time to pass for the reward to be meaningful for his action.

Never punish your dog if you notice a mistake on the floor after it has happened. Dogs live in the moment, so punishment after the fact will cause your dog to think he's being punished for whatever he was doing at that time and create confusion. Instead, you must catch your dog in the act of eliminating on the floor and redirect him to his potty area.

LITTER TRAINING

Litter boxes and litter made especially for dogs allow owners an alternative to outdoor house-training. Indoor litter boxes offer convenience to owners of young dogs, small dogs, and older dogs, and even for those who live in city apartments. Training your dog to use a dog litter box is much like training him to use an outdoor potty area. Keep the litter box clean, and remove waste after each use.

CRATE TRAINING

Crate training is an effective option for pet owners to ensure their dog remains safe during the workday and can also help with house-training. Choose a crate that is large enough for your dog to stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably. The crate should also contain a soft bed and an interactive toy to keep him occupied while inside. Always allow your dog the opportunity to eliminate before placing him in the crate, as well as when you let him out. Never use the crate as punishment.



TO OTHER DOGS

When an existing dog meets a new dog, it is advisable to have both dogs on leashes. Always introduce them outside on neutral territory first. With the help of another person, walk the dogs parallel to each other without contact to gauge their response to each other. When you get home, have the existing dog confined and introduce the new dog to the home, one room at a time – individually on leash. When you do introduce the two dogs together, give them both treats to help create a positive association. Do not leave them alone together until you are sure they are friends. Don't force your existing dog to accept the new dog immediately. They need to become acquainted at their own pace and may require a long transition period.

TO CATS

If you are introducing your new dog to a cat, consider a wire or mesh gate in a doorway. It can allow the two animals to get acquainted, and a cat will be able to jump it to find refuge in the house when she needs to get away from the dog. During the learning process, never allow the dog to chase the cat. This will invoke a normal prey drive in the dog. Keep them separated for several weeks while they get used to each other's scent. It might be helpful to set the dog's food bowl on a towel that has been rubbed on the cat and the cat's food bowl on a towel that's been rubbed on the dog. This will help each pet have a positive association of the other.

TO VISITORS

Introducing your dog to visitors is an important part of his socialization. It will help lessen his fear of strangers and make him friendlier.

Use your dog's collar and leash when introducing him to a visitor, so you can keep him from jumping. Give your dog the command "Sit" and help him into this position. Have him stay sitting while your visitor greets him. This will help him learn how to accept greeting and praise calmly. Also, request that other adults and visitors respect your dog's rights by holding him properly, as well as treating him and talking to him gently, without sudden moves.

TO OLDER CHILDREN

Older children can normally share in responsibility for the care and training of your dog. Although, parents still need to follow-up to make sure that the responsibilities are being met properly.

TO A BABY

Introducing a new dog to a baby in your home requires precautionary measures. Before you bring your baby home, bring an article of clothing or blanket with the baby's scent home for your dog to investigate. A baby has a different scent from the rest of the family. It doesn't look, move or sound like an adult in the dog's mind. When you bring the baby home, introduce it slowly. Don't forget to still give your dog individual time and attention during the transition.

Carefully observe and use cautious judgment in deciding when the dog is allowed to sniff the baby directly – sometimes you may wait for several days, or maybe a week or more. Do not leave the dog and baby together unattended. Most dogs generally adjust to babies over time, but some may not.

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When To Consider Adopting Another New Dog

After your newly adopted dog has settled in, you may want to consider adopting another rescued dog. Make sure your existing dog is fully-trained before you bring in another dog. Trained means that he knows what he can and cannot chew on, listens to and obeys your commands and is completely house-trained. It's instinctive for a new dog to take his lead from an older dog. So it's especially important that the "resident" is well-trained, as he'll be showing the newcomer the ropes. Otherwise, you may end up with two unruly pets on your hands.



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Bringing home your newly adopted dog is an exciting time. And while you'll be eager to get him home and settled in, it's important to take a few necessary steps to make the transition a smooth one for him, for you, and for the rest of your household, including any existing pets.

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Welcoming Him Home

Bringing home a new dog – any new dog – can be a major undertaking! And rescued dogs can present their own unique sets of challenges. A dog's behavior in the kennel or foster home does not necessarily reflect the behavior you'll encounter in your own home, especially within those first 48 hours. This information is provided to assist you and your dog in making the smoothest transition possible.

Understand His Needs

Your new dog may have been abandoned, abused or surrendered by a previous family. The dog had to adjust to life in the rescue program and is now going home to a new, unfamiliar place with unfamiliar people. Being gentle, considerate, kind and patient will help ease your new dog into his new family.

Allow Time To Adjust

Your dog may be afraid and unsure of his new surroundings. If he appears to be scared, keep him in a small, quiet area to start, and take it slow. Be sure to give positive reinforcement. Don't allow children to bother the dog if he is afraid. Fear can result in nipping. Instead, give your dog plenty of time to adjust to his new surroundings, taking it one step at a time.

Be Ready For Mistakes

A new dog will eliminate in the house if not trained to use the outdoors. Even a potty-trained dog can make mistakes in a new home. He doesn't know which door to go to or how to communicate with his new family. Take him outside on a leash, on a schedule and to the same spot each time. Reward him with praise or a treat. Feeding your dog on a schedule will also help with the house-training schedule.

Set Some Rules

Your dog had a whole different set of rules in his previous home. He may have been allowed to sleep in the bed or to beg at the dinner table. A new dog may jump to greet you. He may have the urge to chew. It's up to you to teach him your rules. Teaching proper behavior takes time and patience. Consider enrolling in a dog manners or obedience class in your community. Especially during these first 48 hours, keep a watchful eye on your new dog and confine him when you can't watch him. Consider crate training your dog to assist with house-training and minimize destructiveness.

Be Patient

Allow your dog three to six weeks to adapt to his new surroundings and up to four months to fully adjust. Remember that adult dogs may take longer than puppies to settle in. Set the dog up for success. Adopting a dog is a lifetime commitment. Make a patient and concerted effort to achieve a successful placement. Don't give up! The rewards of adopting a rescued dog are simply immeasurable.

His new Home

If possible, plan to pick up your dog at the beginning of the weekend, so you can have at least two full days with him to start his training and to take him to the veterinarian. This will also give your dog time to become acquainted with everyone. It's best not to overwhelm your dog with excitement and noise. And do not let him outside unsupervised, because he may stray away or be injured by another animal or a vehicle.

Introducing Your New Dog...

TO HIS NEW HOME

When you bring him home, show him his crate, his toys and his food and water bowls. Your dog will soon know which special little corner of your house is his. Respect his right to be undisturbed while he is resting, sleeping or eating.

Your dog probably will be homesick for a night or two, so don't be surprised if he whimpers or cries at bedtime or mealtime. Remember, he has a lot of adjusting to do!

TO HIS NEW FAMILY

Show all family members the proper way to hold and pet the dog. Always place one hand under his hindquarters and the other under his chest when holding him, and never pick him up by his front paws or by the scruff of his neck.

Avoid rough play and handling of your new dog. Let him make his own advances. It may be days before he feels at home and wants to play. Don't overtire your dog. Play with him, but give him plenty of time for naps.

Remember, your dog looks to you for direction, comfort and protection. Everything is new to him, so he may not be playful and frisky at first. But be patient. And talk to him. Dogs may not know people vocabulary, but they'll soon learn to respond to your voice and commands. Speak to him often and gently and always treat him kindly.

TO YOUNGER CHILDREN

Most children love dogs--and vice versa. But it's important to teach children that dogs are sensitive, living creatures that need love and care. Remind children that to a small dog, even a small child looks like a giant, and he may bite to protect himself when frightened.

Gradually introduce the dog to children, and have adults and children play with the dog on the floor, at his level, to make him feel more secure. Teach children how to correctly pick up and hold the dog and remind them not to pull the dog's tail or ears, squeeze or poke him, make loud, threatening noises or move toward him too quickly. When playing with dogs, small children should be supervised by an adult at all times.

Never take someone else's word that this dog is "good with children." It is your responsibility to educate your children not to chase or tease the dog, try to hug and kiss the new dog, try to take objects away from the new dog, or disturb the new dog while he is eating or sleeping.



Take him outside on a leash, reward him with praise or a treat.

First Aid

No matter how carefully you supervise your dog, accidents can happen. It is important to remain calm, act quickly and safely transport an injured dog to a veterinarian as soon as possible. Always call first to make sure the veterinarian is in and to alert the office staff about your emergency. Have your veterinarian's phone number and address handy, along with information about the nearest animal emergency clinic and poison control hotline. We've included a Contacts section in this kit for you to store that information and have it at your fingertips in case of emergency.

MUZZLING

An injured dog, even your own, may bite if he is in pain. He should be muzzled before attempting any first aid, but do not muzzle a dog that is choking or vomiting. You can use a scarf, dishtowel or other soft cloth as a muzzle. Loop the fabric over his muzzle and tie a single knot under the chin. Bring the fabric ends behind his ears and tie the ends in a bow.

BANDAGING

Place a sterile gauze pad directly over the wound. Then wrap gauze strips, clean torn rags or other clean, soft fabric around the dressing. Tie or tape it just enough to hold it in place until you reach medical care.

MOVING AN INJURED DOG

If you suspect your dog has internal injuries, carefully slide him onto a board, blanket, jacket or other makeshift stretcher.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

The following first aid treatments should be used only until you can get professional help for your dog.

- **Allergic Reaction.** Symptoms range from tearing and itching eyes, swollen face and sneezing, to difficulty breathing, collapse and unconsciousness. Take your dog to the veterinarian immediately if his reaction seems severe.
- **Bleeding.** Bandage the wound. Immediate medical care is essential if bleeding is excessive or does not stop after the wound is bandaged.
- **Breathing Problems.** If your dog gasps for breath, breathes noisily or shows other signs of inadequate breathing, such as a blue tongue, seek medical help immediately.
- **Broken Bone.** Restrict movement while en route to the veterinarian and control any serious bleeding. If you are far from medical help, wrap the limb with cotton; splint front legs or upper back legs with a stick, rolled newspaper or similar objects and wrap loosely with gauze.
- **Burns.** For first-degree burns (reddened skin and singed hair), apply cold water or ice. For second- or third-degree burns (skin may be swollen, loose or discolored), cover the burn with a cool, damp cloth (but do not use cotton). Rush the dog to your veterinarian for treatment. Do not apply any ointments to the burns. For chemical burns, flush skin with water for 10 to 15 minutes before taking your dog to the veterinarian.
- **Choking.** Push the dog's lower jaw open, and tilt his head up. Using extreme caution, try to remove the object with your fingers. If unsuccessful, kneel behind him, holding his body just below the ribs. Squeeze hard a few times, pressing up. If the object does not pop out, rush him to the veterinarian.
- **Drowning.** Hold the dog upside down for 10 to 15 seconds. If knowledgeable, administer CPR or artificial respiration. Wrap him warmly and get him to the veterinarian.

- **Electric Shock.** Playful puppies or anxious dogs may chew on electrical cords, which can lead to electric shock. Electric shock may produce burns on the tongue and mouth, which may cause profuse salivation and breathing difficulty. Severe electric shock can result in unconsciousness or death. Never touch a dog that is touching an exposed electrical wire. Turn off the current and use a dry stick to move the dog away from the wire. Get veterinary help immediately.

- **Eye Injury.** Do not attempt to remove a foreign object from the eye. Restrain the dog to prevent self-injury and take him to the veterinarian immediately.

- **Frostbite.** Your dog can suffer frostbite on his ears, feet and tail. Symptoms include pale, glossy skin, which reddens and becomes painful. Immediately take the dog into a warm place. Thaw out frostbitten areas by applying warm, moist towels that are changed frequently. Continue until the affected areas become flushed. Let the veterinarian check the injuries.

- **Heatstroke or Heat Prostration.** Symptoms include excessive panting, high fever and collapse. Lower the dog's body temperature by hosing down or immersing the dog in cool water up to his neck for 10 minutes. Apply an ice pack to his head. Take him to the veterinarian when his temperature begins to decrease.

- **Poisoning.** Symptoms vary with the poison ingested. Call the poison control hotline or your veterinarian for advice. They will need to know what your dog has swallowed before prescribing treatment. Do not induce vomiting unless the veterinarian recommends it. If vomited, some poisons can be more hazardous to the dog. Take the poison container to the veterinarian with you.

- **Shock.** Symptoms include pale gums, cold paws, a fast heartbeat (over 150 beats per minute) and rapid breathing. Elevate the dog's hindquarters, wrap him warmly, and take him to the veterinarian immediately.

- **Swallowed Objects.** If your dog has swallowed an object he can't digest, take him to the veterinarian. Do not induce vomiting because the object may cause more damage.

- **Skunk Encounter.** If necessary, restrain the dog and flush his eyes with fresh water. Bathe the dog thoroughly with soap and water, apply tomato juice liberally and then bathe again with soap and water. Skunks are one of the major carriers of rabies, so it is important to keep your dog's rabies vaccinations up-to-date.



DOING MORE™
for his health

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Doing more to keep your dog healthy goes beyond knowing about illness or accident care. It's also being a part of for his overall wellbeing. Enjoy a game of fetch, until he's tired. Go on long walks, even if it's raining. Bring him to the dog park, so he can play with other dogs. The more you time you enjoy together, the happier and healthier you both will be in the years ahead.

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Giving Medication

If your veterinarian prescribes pills or liquid medication, do not try to mix it with your dog's food unless your vet prescribes otherwise. Most dogs can sense when something unwanted has been added to their food and will leave the medicine untouched.

GIVING A PILL

Wrap one hand over his muzzle and lift his head up with thumb and forefinger on either side of the upper lips. With the other hand, gently but firmly, pull down his jaw and place the pill at the very back of his tongue. Close his mouth and hold it shut. Firmly stroke downward along his throat until he swallows.

GIVING LIQUID MEDICATION

To give liquid medication to your dog, gently tilt his head back. Slowly place the medication into the pouch formed by the dog's cheek and teeth. Encourage him to swallow by stroking his throat.



INTERNAL PARASITES

Internal parasites usually live in a dog's digestive system and are detected by an examination of the dog's stool.

HEARTWORM - Transmitted by the bite of a mosquito, this dangerous parasite lives in a dog's heart or near it in major blood vessels and can be fatal. Heartworm is difficult to cure, but easy to prevent, with medication from your veterinarian. The medication is generally administered in a monthly dose during the mosquito season or, in many areas, year-round. An annual blood test is taken to ensure that heartworms are not already present before administering a heartworm preventative. Never treat a dog for heartworms except under the supervision of your veterinarian.

HOOKWORM - This is one of the most dangerous of all intestinal parasites. Hookworm infection may produce lethargy, anemia, poor appetite and black, tarry stools containing blood.

ROUNDWORM - The thin, spaghetti-like parasite can cause a potbellied appearance. The worms are rarely seen in the dog's feces or in vomit. Symptoms range from none to weight loss, weakness, vomiting, diarrhea or mucus in the stool, dehydration, stunted growth, a potbellied appearance and possible pneumonia.

TAPEWORM - Infestation can occur from ingesting larvae from a flea or a host carrying eggs. There are no obvious symptoms of tapeworm, but small, rice-like segments can be found around the pet's anus or in an infected animal's feces. Mature tapeworms feed from the intestines, causing the dog to eat more than normal without weight gain.

WHIPWORM - This parasite causes chronic bowel inflammation, mucus in the stool, weight loss and diarrhea.

COCCIDIA - Symptoms can include diarrhea, fever, weight loss and loss of appetite, or no symptoms may be visible.

EXTERNAL PARASITES

External parasites live on a dog's body. They are diagnosed by physical examination and skin tests.

FLEAS - A dog infested with fleas scratches or bites himself frequently. Small red spots may show up on his skin. Black specks (flea dirt) may cling to the fur on his neck or rump. Fleas may also cause allergic dermatitis, which shows up as encrusted lesions on the dog's skin. Consult your veterinarian for a safe and effective treatment, as well as effective preventative measures.

TICKS - If you find a tick on your dog, put on a pair of protective gloves and use a tweezer to remove the tick. Grasp the tick near its head and gently pull it out. Make sure the head of the tick is removed, then dab the area with alcohol or hydrogen peroxide to prevent infection. Call your veterinarian to determine if further treatment is necessary.

LICE - Lice can be controlled with most flea sprays and powders. If your new dog is a puppy, be sure to use only those sprays and powders labeled safe for puppies.

MANGE MITES - The most common types of these mites are sarcoptic and demodectic. They live on your pet's skin or in the hair follicles and are not visible to the naked eye. Sarcoptic mange is highly contagious, demodectic mange is not. Either variety can spread quickly and may be difficult to cure. Follow your veterinarian's treatment advice.

EAR MITES - Ear mites can cause your dog to scratch or paw at his ears and shake his head. Check his ears for dark earwax or material resembling dried blood or coffee grounds. Consult your veterinarian for proper treatment.

RINGWORM - Ringworm is very contagious and can be transmitted to humans. It appears as oval, bare patches on the pet's skin. Your veterinarian will treat ringworm with medication.

Your Healthy Dog

Become familiar with your dog's signs of normal health and behavior. This allows you to notice any changes that might signal illness or injury that might require veterinary treatment.

EYES should be clear and bright with no red or yellow discoloration. If there is any discoloration, tearing, cloudiness, heavy discharge or other abnormal conditions, take your dog to the veterinarian immediately.

EARS should be clean and free of discharge and odor. Check the ears at least once a week, or more often for breeds prone to ear problems (such as long-haired breeds or those with pendulous ears like Cocker Spaniels). If the ear canal is red, inflamed, hot, has a foul odor or is sensitive to your touch, consult your veterinarian.

MOUTH should have pink, healthy gums with no redness or swelling at the tooth margins. Teeth should be free of tartar build-up and there should be no bad breath.

NOSE should be clean and wet.

SKIN & COAT should be free of tumors, lumps, fleas and ticks. Check by running your hands over the dog's coat. A normal coat is thick, shiny and silky – without greasiness, dandruff or bare patches.

LEGS should be checked for swollen joints. Inspect feet between the toes for excess hair or objects lodged there. Check the condition of his nails.

ANUS should be free of swelling and intestinal parasites. Scooting along the ground might be an attempt to relieve swollen anal glands. See your veterinarian.

Regular Veterinary Visits

It's important to establish a relationship with a veterinarian right away so he or she becomes a trusted partner throughout your rescued dog's life.

THE ROUTINE EXAM

Bring as much information as possible to your new dog's first veterinary exam. Include your dog's birth date – if you know it – and any vaccination records you may have.

VACCINATIONS

Newborn puppies receive disease-fighting antibodies in their mother's milk. However, these antibodies normally last only 6 to 16 weeks. After that, vaccinations protect a dog by introducing modified disease-causing agents into his body to stimulate him to produce his own antibodies. Your veterinarian will recommend a timetable for the vaccinations your dog needs to prevent disease.

SPAYING/NEUTERING

Spaying or neutering is recommended and is often required by dog rescue organizations. Spaying or neutering is the best way to help reduce the number of unwanted pets euthanized each year.



MICROCHIP # _____
 PET'S NAME _____

HEALTH RECORDS

VACCINATION HISTORY

| AGE | DUE DATE | DATE GIVEN | WEIGHT | DISTEMPER | HEPATITIS | LEPTOSPIROSIS | PARVOVIRUS | PARAINFLUENZA | CORONAVIRUS | BORDETELLA | RABIES |
|----------|----------|------------|--------|-----------|-----------|---------------|------------|---------------|-------------|------------|--------|
| — WEEK | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — WEEK | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — MONTH | | | | | | | | | | | |
| — MONTH | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 YEAR | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 YEARS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 YEARS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 YEARS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 YEARS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 YEARS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 YEARS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 YEARS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 YEARS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 YEARS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 YEARS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 YEARS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 YEARS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 YEARS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 YEARS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 YEARS | | | | | | | | | | | |

MEDICAL & SURGICAL HISTORY

| DATE | HISTORY |
|------|---------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

DEWORMING

| DATE | TREATMENT | NEXT FECAL EXAM |
|------|-----------|-----------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

HEARTWORM TEST

| DATE | PREVENTION/TREATMENT | NEXT EXAM |
|------|----------------------|-----------|
| | | |
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| | | |





MICROCHIP # _____

PET'S NAME _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

PURINA PRO PLAN: VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT PROPLAN.COM. OR, CALL OUR PET NUTRITION CONSULTANTS WEEKDAYS FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM CT AT 1-800-PRO PLAN (1-800-776-7526).

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

| | NAME | ADDRESS | PHONE |
|-------------------|------|---------|-------|
| VETERINARIAN | | | |
| RESCUER | | | |
| GROOMER | | | |
| KENNEL | | | |
| PET SITTER | | | |
| OBEDIENCE SCHOOL | | | |
| POISON CONTROL | | | |
| EMERGENCY CONTACT | | | |