



Lucky Chance Rescue

www.luckychancerescue.com

charmed@luckychancerescue.com

636-515-3515

LCR COPY

Adoption Contract – Unaltered Dogs/Puppies

ADOPTER INFORMATION	PET INFORMATION
Name:	Name:
Address:	Breed:
City, State, Zip Code	Color:
Telephone:	Sex:
Email:	Age:
Adoption Fee:	Date of Adoption:

All adoptions approved by Lucky Chance Rescue are subject to the following terms and conditions:

- 1. Release of Liability and Hold Harmless Clause** In consideration of the receipt of the above-referred dog, the Adopter hereby understands, promises and agrees to forever release, discharge, indemnify and covenant to hold harmless Lucky Chance Rescue, its directors, officers, volunteers and successors and assigns from any and all claims, damages, costs expenses, loss of service, actions and causes of action arising out of any act or occurrence relating to the above referenced dog from the present time forward.
- 2. Adoption Donations** In conjunction with the adoption of this dog, I have tendered a \$_____ adoption donation, paid in the form of _____ to Lucky Chance Rescue receipt of which is hereby acknowledged. This donation represents a contribution to defer Lucky Chance Rescue's expenses both directly and indirectly attributable to the rescue of this and other dogs. Adoption donations are NON-REFUNDABLE after the two week trial adoption. There are no exceptions to this matter unless a Lucky Chance Rescue director provides consent in written form BEFORE the time of adoption. **Adoption donations are tax deductible. Payment can be made by check, cash, Paypal: <https://paypal.me/luckychancerescue> or through the website at www.luckychancerescue.com/donate/**
- 3. Health and Temperament** Lucky Chance Rescue makes no explicit or implicit guarantees in reference to the health and/or temperament of the dog. The Adopter assumes all responsibility for treatment of any and all conditions of physical or temperament changes that may occur. While Lucky Chance Rescue makes every effort to place only healthy animals, with good temperaments, it cannot guarantee the health of any animal and may not be held responsible for any medical expenses that may be incurred after the date of adoption. The parties hereby acknowledge that Lucky Chance Rescue has not made any warranties relating to the dog, either express or implied, without limitation, any warranties regarding health, temperament or whether the dog is housebroken.
- 4. Veterinary Care After Adoption:** All adopted dogs have been cleared by our veterinarians as healthy to adopt. You will be responsible for all veterinary care as of the contract date. Our priority is always making sure your newly adopted dog is healthy at time of adoption. There are some rare instances where something can pop up between the last vet visit and when you adopt. If there are health issues that we are unaware of, please reach out to Lucky Chance Rescue to discuss options for diagnosis/treatment.
- 5. Veterinarian Release of Information** Adopter understands and agrees that Lucky Chance Rescue shall have the right to contact ANY veterinarian who has examined and/or treated the dog for the purpose of gaining information regarding any aspect of the dog's health and care including but not limited to; whether or not the dog has received heartworm prevention, heartworm tests, fecal examinations, vaccinations and/or other treatments as required by this contract. Adopter authorizes the release of any information regarding the treatment, training or other interaction of the dog by or with, animal control, law enforcement, veterinarian, trainer, groomer, boarder or any other service provider



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5. Covenants of Adopter Regarding Care and Handling Adopter certifies, warrants, covenants and agrees that:

- Adopter shall cause the dog to be tested for heartworm and intestinal parasites once every twelve (12) months.
- Adopter agrees to provide rabies vaccinations as required by law of the state in which the dog is domiciled.
- Adopter agrees to provide a booster vaccination as recommended by a veterinarian.
- Adopter agrees to provide prompt medical treatment by a veterinarian for any illness or injury.
- Adopter agrees to provide the dog with adequate, nutritious food, clean water and shelter at all times.
- Adopter agrees to refrain from physical and/or emotional abuse of the dog at any time and shall not otherwise treat the dog in an inhumane manner or allow third parties to do so.
- Adopter ensures that the dog will not wear a shock collar or any similar article at any time except for training by a qualified trainer or use of electric fence. Electric fence collar should be removed before dog is crated.
- Adopter ensures that the dog will not wear a choke collar or pinch collar, except for the purpose of training. Training must be instructed by a qualified trainer. Collar should be removed when not training.
- Adopter ensures that the dog will wear an appropriate flat collar, Identification tag with microchip number at all times.
- Adopter ensures that the dog will not be tethered or chained unless it's for the dog's safety and no longer than necessary and must provide adequate shelter from the elements.
- Adopter warrants that the dog will live only in the main living quarters of Adopter's residence as a family member and not as a working or guard dog.
- The dog shall not be kept in a kennel environment except when hospitalization is necessary or (b) when brief, temporary boarding is necessary due to illness or absence of the Adopter.
- Adopter agrees if the dog is outdoors for any reason, to make shelter available at all times from sun, wind, and precipitation, cold and extreme heat.
- Adopter ensures that the dog will be crated for no longer than nine (9) continuous hours and for no more than sixteen (16) hours in any twenty-four (24) hour period of time.
- Adopter ensures that the dog shall not be left unattended by an adult, with children under the age of six (6) years at any time. This includes immediate family and guests.
- Adopter ensures that under no circumstances whatsoever will the dog be subjected to cosmetic surgery of any kind.
- Adopter agrees that the dog will not ride in the back of a pickup truck under any circumstances. Dogs must be tethered in an appropriate dog seat belt or in a crate while travelling in any vehicle.
- Adopter is advised and understands that during warmer months temperatures can escalate to a fatal level in a vehicle within five minutes. Adopter agrees that the dog shall not remain in any vehicle unattended for any length of time. "70 degrees and over? Don't take rover!"

6. Change of Address Adopter agrees to notify Lucky Chance Rescue no less than ten (10) business days prior to change of address of the Adopter and/or a change of environment that will affect the dog. This will allow Lucky Chance Rescue to update your pet's registration information so that your pet is fully protected

7. Disposition of Pet Adopter further agrees to desist from giving, adopting, loaning, fostering, trading, swapping, abandoning, surrendering or otherwise disposing of or destroying the dog in any manner whatsoever or to any entity whatsoever, unless the dog suffers a catastrophic injury and the treating veterinarian recommends euthanasia.

- If the dog becomes lost, Lucky Chance Rescue should be contacted immediately, as we may be able to help in the dog's recovery. Adopter must make every effort to find their dog.
- If for any reason the Adopter must relinquish ownership of the dog, owners must contact Lucky Chance Rescue.
- Adopters must give Lucky Chance Rescue 2 weeks to evaluate your dog and find a suitable foster home if dog needs to be returned. All vaccinations must be current at time of surrender. A fine up to \$1,000 will be imposed if Lucky Chance Rescue has to recover the dog from anywhere else including but not limited to animal control



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8. Spay/Neuter Clause

If you are adopting a dog who has not yet been spayed or neutered; you will be required to complete and agree to the terms of our Spay/Neuter Agreement. Your home family dog(s) must be altered prior to adoption. The only exceptions are dogs who cannot undergo surgery for medical reasons. Written proof from your veterinarian stating medical reasons will be required prior to adoption. Please read the agreement carefully, you will be required to agree to these terms if you are adopting an un-altered animal. See attached Spay/Neuter Agreement

9. Adopting Intact (Unneutered/Unspayed) Dogs with Spay/Neuter Clause

It is your responsibility to ensure that the dog/puppy you are adopting from Lucky Chance Rescue stays separated from dogs of the opposite sex until the spay/neuter surgery is completed. This includes your home/family dog who is not spay or neutered for medical reasons. It is imperative to prevent dogs from having or siring a litter of puppies. This includes situations such as;

- (1) getting loose in the neighborhood and meeting up with neighborhood dog
- (2) going to a dog park or other public places where dogs are present.
- (3) Other dogs entering your home who are unaltered (dogs of friends, relatives, dog sitting clients, etc.)
- (4) Allowing your unaltered home/family dog, or any other dog impregnate the Lucky Chance Rescue dog/puppy you have adopted, with or without your knowledge.

If for any reason, the Lucky Chance Rescue dog you adopted gets pregnant and/or has a litter of puppies you will be in breach of contract and will forfeit the dog and the litter of puppies to Lucky Chance Rescue immediately.

10. Forfeiture of Pet

Any breach by Adopter of this contract shall, at the sole discretion of Lucky Chance Rescue, constitute immediate forfeiture by the Adopter of any and all of the adopter's interest and. Adopter agrees to return the dog to Lucky Chance Rescue upon demand. Adopter understands and agrees that there will be no refund of any donation made to Lucky Chance Rescue in the event of the return to or recovery by Lucky Chance Rescue of a forfeited dog.

*Please note any check returned to Lucky Chance Rescue for insufficient funds is considered to be a breach of contract and will be turned over to the Attorney General's Office.

11. Liquidated Damages – Legal Expenses Adopter acknowledges that Lucky Chance Rescue has invested substantial monies, both specifically allocable to this dog and agrees that a requirement of a specific accounting for the cost incurred for the purpose of rescuing, fostering and rehabilitating and if necessary recovering the dog has been at our expense. Adopter further agrees to reimburse Lucky Chance Rescue for necessary costs and attorney's fees expended to recover the dog, as well as the aforesaid liquidated damages, if the dog is disposed of in any manner by Adopter, or is not returned to Lucky Chance Rescue by adopter upon demand. Adopter agrees that any and all costs, expenses and/or attorney's fees incurred by Lucky Chance Rescue to enforce this agreement and/or to recover the dog from Adopter because of Adopter's failure to comply with any terms of this agreement shall be paid by Adopter. Adopter also agrees that Lucky Chance Rescue is not responsible for any damages in the home, vehicles or other property after the point of adoption and these expenses are solely the responsibility of the adopter. **Please note:** If you adopt a puppy prior to his/her 3rd puppy DHPPV and 2nd Bordetella vaccination or before the puppy vaccination series is completed, the dog shall remain inside or in the privacy of your backyard only. The puppy is not to go in public places, walks in the neighborhood, dog parks, neighbors, friends, etc. He/she is not fully protected from parvo, distemper, parainfluenza. If your puppy does fall ill for any of these reasons, you will be in breach of contract. Adopter agrees to pay for medical treatment, hospitalization, and any other related expenses.

12. Notifications Any written notification by Adopter required by this contract shall be made by United States mail; postage prepaid to Lucky Chance Rescue. 2303 Flowering Ash Lane, Lake St. Louis, MO 63367. Any contact required telephone notification by Adopter shall be made by calling 636-515-3515 Written and verbal notification shall include that dog's name as reflected on this contract, the dog's microchip number and the Adopters name and address.

13. Confidentiality

This is a confidential agreement between the Adopter and Lucky Chance Rescue. Your information will not be shared.

Adopter: _____ Date: _____

Lucky Chance Rescue Representative: _____ Date: _____



Lucky Chance Rescue

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Veterinary Care After Adoption

Lucky Chance Rescue covers all necessary veterinary care including age appropriate vaccinations prior to adoption. Which includes;

- Minimum 2 Canine Distemper
- Minimum 1 Bordetella
- Rabies (if older than 16 weeks)
- Spay or Neuter
- Fecal exam and Wormer
- Monthly Heartworm and Flea/Tick Preventive Prior To Adoption
- Microchip
- Veterinary Examinations Prior To Adoption
- All medication to treat any illness diagnosed through our veterinarian

Please read and mark the box with initials that you have read and understand the veterinary care required after adoption

- ☐ **Upon adoption, adopter is responsible for all future vaccinations, monthly heartworm prevention, monthly flea and tick prevention and all veterinary care from the adoption date forward.** This MAY include:
- 3rd & 4th distemper vaccination. These are due between 12-16 weeks of age.
 - 2nd Bordetella vaccination.
 - Rabies at 16 weeks and rabies tag
 - Office visit prior to spay/neuter may be required if the vet performing surgery has not seen the dog. Office visit fees may apply and will be at the adopter's expense.
- ☐ **You may use your own vet for any vaccinations required, or please feel free to use our veterinarians.** All vaccination due dates and veterinary information are included in the vet care plan. If you did not receive a copy of the vet care plan, please contact your foster or email: luckychancerescue@gmail.com. You will be responsible for providing proof of rabies and any other vaccinations prior to spay/neuter surgery to the veterinary hospital where surgery will be done.
- ☐ **If the dog is not altered at time of adoption, Lucky Chance Rescue will cover cost of spay/neuter at one of our approved veterinarians,** as per our attached agreement. Any additional services (including age appropriate vaccinations) will be at adopter's expense.
- ☐ **PUPPIES THAT HAVE NOT HAD A MINIMUM OF 4 (FOUR) DHPPv VACCINATIONS** (distemper / parvo / adenovirus 1 & 2 / parainfluenza virus vaccination) **MAY NOT BE IN ANY PUBLIC AREAS!** If you adopt a puppy prior to his/her 3rd puppy DHPPv and 2nd Bordetella vaccination or before the puppy vaccination series is completed, they must not have paws on the ground in public areas including but not limited to; pet stores, dog parks, designated dog areas in your neighborhood or a place any other wildlife could expose them to distemper, parvo and other viruses. If adopter does not adhere to this and the puppy gets sick, it is the adopter's responsibility to cover all costs related to emergency and veterinary care. Puppies without all their vaccinations do not have full immunity and are at risk of contracting parvo, distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza and bordetella.
- ☐ **Obedience/Basic Training:**
We recommend Adopter provides obedience and/or basic training for the dog. When choosing a trainer, adopter agrees to use a professional trainer who uses Least Intrusive positive reinforcement training. Adopter will avoid trainers who use aversive training methods. Aversive training includes alpha rolls, shock collars, prong collars, physical punishment, etc. The following equipment will not be used on the dog or any person who is handling the Dog: (i) prong training collar, (ii) electric shock collar, (iii) choke collar, a physical correction, or a harsh scolding.

Adopter: _____ Date: _____

Lucky Chance Rescue Representative: _____ Date: _____



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Spay/Neuter Agreement

Provisions shall be made for the sterilization of all dogs and cats sold or released for adoption *[or purchased]* from any public or private animal shelter or animal control agency operated by a humane society, or by a county or city, or other political subdivision pursuant to sections 273.400 to 273.405 of the Missouri Animal Care Facilities Act. Pursuant to these regulations, adopter will be entering into a written agreement with Lucky Chance Rescue that sterilization will be performed by a Lucky Chance Rescue participating licensed veterinarian, in compliance with this sterilization agreement

Ownership of Dog

Permanent ownership of this dog is contingent upon compliance with this Spay/Neuter Agreement between Lucky Chance Rescue and the 'Adopter'. In consideration of an adoption donation as described in the adoption agreement, Lucky Chance Rescue has transferred all rights, privileges, and responsibilities associated with the dog described in the Adoption Agreement.

☐ I agree

Agreement to Spay/Neuter

The Adopter acknowledges that as of the date of this Agreement, the dog is not spayed or neutered, and the Adopter agrees to have the dog spayed or neutered no later than 30 days from the date of adoption agreement, between _____ and _____, or when medically ready as determined by Lucky Chance Rescue Veterinary recommendations

☐ I agree

Proof of Spay/Neuter

Proof of spaying or neutering of the dog must be presented to Lucky Chance Rescue not more than fourteen (14) days after the date of the spay/neuter surgery. Proof of spay/neuter (spayed/neutered certificate) must be sent in the form of a scan or photo to luckychancerescue@gmail.com or mailed to: Lucky Chance Rescue, 2303 Flowering Ash Lane, Lake St. Louis, Mo 63367

If the Adopter fails to provide proof of spaying / neutering within the time set forth above, this Agreement will be enforced. All rights, privileges and responsibilities of the dog shall automatically terminate and transfer back to Lucky Chance Rescue, and Lucky Chance Rescue will immediately assume possession of the dog. The Adopter shall pay all reasonable attorney's fees incurred in attempts to repossess the dog. Lucky Chance Rescue may allow extensions of the time periods upon receipt of a certificate from a Lucky Chance Rescue licensed veterinarian that certifies that the dog has a medical condition which prevents him or her from being spayed/neutered, or that it would otherwise be detrimental to the health of the dog to be spayed/neutered. In such a case, the dog shall be spayed or neutered when the dog is healthy enough, as certified by a Lucky Chance Rescue licensed veterinarian. The dog shall be spayed or neutered within thirty (30) business days of that certification, or the conditions set forth above will be enacted.

Lucky Chance Rescue will cover cost of spay/neuter at one of our approved veterinarians, as per our agreement. Surgery MUST be done by the dates listed on the agreement. If adopter does not adhere to the surgery dates set forth in this agreement, Adopter will be responsible for paying a portion of the surgery to cover the overage we will be charged for spaying/neutering a larger dog. Spay/Neuter cost varies at each of our Veterinarians. Any overage would be determined at time of surgery and paid directly to the veterinarian who performed the surgery.

☐ I agree



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636-544-3746

Where to Spay/Neuter

Adopter will be responsible for making the required appointment at one of the Lucky Chance Rescue Participating Licensed Veterinarians Listed below. Please be sure to tell them you have a spay/neuter certificate from Lucky Chance Rescue when making the appointment

☐ Hawk Ridge Veterinary Hospital
711 Robert Raymond Dr Lake St
Louis, MO 63367
(636) 755-9500

☐ Yorkshire Animal Hospital
8063 Watson Rd.
Webster Groves, MO 63119
(314) 843-2394

☐ Anheuser Animal Clinic
285 US-61
Bloomsdale, MO 63627
(573) 483-5034

☐ Ferguson Animal Hospital
483 Airport Road
Ferguson, MO 63135
(314) 524-0707

☐ Franklin County Animal Medical Center
921 W 14th St Washington, MO 63090
(636) 390-9280

☐ OTHER TBD

Spayed/Neutered Certificate

Spayed/Neutered certificate must be presented to the Lucky Chance Rescue participating licensed veterinarian at time of appointment. This certificate covers the cost of a routine spay/neuter procedure including a cursory (not full) surgical pre-exam, anesthesia, surgical procedure, waste disposal, day of surgery post-operative care and pain-relief, hospitalization as required, and stitch removal if necessary. Inoculations are the responsibility of the pet-owner and may be required by the veterinarian. Ask the veterinarian about any additional charges before the spay/neuter procedure is performed. All services requested unrelated to a routine spay/neuter procedure are the responsibility of the pet-owner.

The veterinarian may charge additional fees that will be the responsibility of the adopter including but not limited to;

- take-home medications
- if required, SMALL PANEL blood work
- vaccinations (distemper, Bordetella, rabies)
- e-collar

Signature of Adopter *

☐ I have read and fully understand the foregoing Spay/Neuter Contract and agree to be bound to its provisions.
By signing my name, I agree to be bound by this agreement.

Adopter Signature _____

Lucky Chance Rescue Representative: _____

Date: _____



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Adoption Contract – Unaltered Dogs/Puppies

ADOPTER INFORMATION	PET INFORMATION
Name:	Name:
Address:	Breed:
City, State, Zip Code	Color:
Telephone:	Sex:
Email:	Age:
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- (1) getting loose in the neighborhood and meeting up with neighborhood dog
- (2) going to a dog park or other public places where dogs are present.
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Veterinary Care After Adoption

Lucky Chance Rescue covers all necessary veterinary care including age appropriate vaccinations prior to adoption. Which includes;

- Minimum 2 Canine Distemper
- Minimum 1 Bordetella
- Rabies (if older than 16 weeks)
- Spay or Neuter
- Fecal exam and Wormer
- Monthly Heartworm and Flea/Tick Preventive Prior To Adoption
- Microchip
- Veterinary Examinations Prior To Adoption
- All medication to treat any illness diagnosed through our veterinarian

Please read and mark the box with initials that you have read and understand the veterinary care required after adoption

☐ **Upon adoption, adopter is responsible for all future vaccinations, monthly heartworm prevention, monthly flea and tick prevention and all veterinary care from the adoption date forward.** This MAY include:

- 3rd & 4th distemper vaccination. These are due between 12-16 weeks of age.
- 2nd Bordetella vaccination.
- Rabies at 16 weeks and rabies tag
- Office visit prior to spay/neuter may be required if the vet performing surgery has not seen the dog. Office visit fees may apply and will be at the adopter's expense.

☐ **You may use your own vet for any vaccinations required, or please feel free to use our veterinarians.** All vaccination due dates and veterinary information are included in the vet care plan. If you did not receive a copy of the vet care plan, please contact your foster or email: luckychancerescue@gmail.com. You will be responsible for providing proof of rabies and any other vaccinations prior to spay/neuter surgery to the veterinary hospital where surgery will be done.

☐ **If the dog is not altered at time of adoption, Lucky Chance Rescue will cover cost of spay/neuter at one of our approved veterinarians,** as per our attached agreement. Any additional services (including age appropriate vaccinations) will be at adopter's expense.

☐ **PUPPIES THAT HAVE NOT HAD A MINIMUM OF 4 (FOUR) DHPPv VACCINATIONS** (distemper / parvo / adenovirus 1 & 2 / parainfluenza virus vaccination) **MAY NOT BE IN ANY PUBLIC AREAS!** If you adopt a puppy prior to his/her 3rd puppy DHPPv and 2nd Bordetella vaccination or before the puppy vaccination series is completed, they must not have paws on the ground in public areas including but not limited to; pet stores, dog parks, designated dog areas in your neighborhood or a place any other wildlife could expose them to distemper, parvo and other viruses. If adopter does not adhere to this and the puppy gets sick, it is the adopter's responsibility to cover all costs related to emergency and veterinary care. Puppies without all their vaccinations do not have full immunity and are at risk of contracting parvo, distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza and bordetella.

☐ **Obedience/Basic Training:**
We recommend Adopter provides obedience and/or basic training for the dog. When choosing a trainer, adopter agrees to use a professional trainer who uses Least Intrusive positive reinforcement training. Adopter will avoid trainers who use aversive training methods. Aversive training includes alpha rolls, shock collars, prong collars, physical punishment, etc. The following equipment will not be used on the dog or any person who is handling the Dog: (i) prong training collar, (ii) electric shock collar, (iii) choke collar, a physical correction, or a harsh scolding.

Adopter: _____ Date: _____

Lucky Chance Rescue Representative: _____ Date: _____



ADOPTER COPY

Lucky Chance Rescue

www.luckychancerescue.com

luckychancerescue@gmail.com

636-515-3515

Spay/Neuter Agreement

Provisions shall be made for the sterilization of all dogs and cats sold or released for adoption *[or purchased]* from any public or private animal shelter or animal control agency operated by a humane society, or by a county or city, or other political subdivision pursuant to sections 273.400 to 273.405 of the Missouri Animal Care Facilities Act. Pursuant to these regulations, adopter will be entering into a written agreement with Lucky Chance Rescue that sterilization will be performed by a Lucky Chance Rescue participating licensed veterinarian, in compliance with this sterilization agreement

Ownership of Dog

Permanent ownership of this dog is contingent upon compliance with this Spay/Neuter Agreement between Lucky Chance Rescue and the 'Adopter'. In consideration of an adoption donation as described in the adoption agreement, Lucky Chance Rescue has transferred all rights, privileges, and responsibilities associated with the dog described in the Adoption Agreement.

☐ I agree

Agreement to Spay/Neuter

The Adopter acknowledges that as of the date of this Agreement, the dog is not spayed or neutered, and the Adopter agrees to have the dog spayed or neutered no later than 30 days from the date of adoption agreement, between _____ and _____, or when medically ready as determined by Lucky Chance Rescue Veterinary recommendations

☐ I agree

Proof of Spay/Neuter

Proof of spaying or neutering of the dog must presented to Lucky Chance Rescue not more than fourteen (14) days after the date of the spay/neuter surgery. Proof of spay/neuter (spayed/neutered certificate) must be sent in the form of a scan or photo to luckychancerescue@gmail.com or mailed to: Lucky Chance Rescue, 2303 Flowering Ash Lane, Lake St. Louis, Mo 63367

If the Adopter fails to provide proof of spaying / neutering within the time set forth above, this Agreement will be enforced. All rights, privileges and responsibilities of the dog shall automatically terminate and transfer back to Lucky Chance Rescue, and Lucky Chance Rescue will immediately assume possession of the dog. The Adopter shall pay all reasonable attorney's fees incurred in attempts to repossess the dog. Lucky Chance Rescue may allow extensions of the time periods upon receipt of a certificate from a Lucky Chance Rescue licensed veterinarian that certifies that the dog has a medical condition which prevents him or her from being spayed/neutered, or that it would otherwise be detrimental to the health of the dog to be spayed/neutered. In such a case, the dog shall be spayed or neutered when the dog is healthy enough, as certified by a Lucky Chance Rescue licensed veterinarian The dog shall be spayed or neutered within thirty (30) business days of that certification, or the conditions set forth above will be enacted.

Lucky Chance Rescue will cover cost of spay/neuter at one of our approved veterinarians, as per our agreement. Surgery MUST be done by the dates listed on the agreement. If adopter does not adhere to the surgery dates set forth in this agreement, Adopter will be responsible for paying a portion of the surgery to cover the overage we will be charged for spaying/neutering a larger dog. Spay/Neuter cost varies at each of our Veterinarians. Any overage would be determined at time of surgery and paid directly to the veterinarian who performed the surgery.

☐ I agree



Lucky Chance Rescue

www.luckychancerescue.com

charmed@luckychancerescue.com

636-544-3746

ADOPTER COPY

Where to Spay/Neuter

Adopter will be responsible for making the required appointment at one of the Lucky Chance Rescue Participating Licensed Veterinarians Listed below. Please be sure to tell them you have a spay/neuter certificate from Lucky Chance Rescue when making the appointment

☐ Hawk Ridge Veterinary Hospital
711 Robert Raymond Dr Lake St
Louis, MO 63367
(636) 755-9500

☐ Yorkshire Animal Hospital
8063 Watson Rd.
Webster Groves, MO 63119
(314) 843-2394

☐ Anheuser Animal Clinic
285 US-61
Bloomsdale, MO 63627
(573) 483-5034

☐ Ferguson Animal Hospital
483 Airport Road
Ferguson, MO 63135
(314) 524-0707

☐ Franklin County Animal Medical Center
921 W 14th St Washington, MO 63090
(636) 390-9280

☐ OTHER TBD

Spayed/Neutered Certificate

Spayed/Neutered certificate must be presented to the Lucky Chance Rescue participating licensed veterinarian at time of appointment. This certificate covers the cost of a routine spay/neuter procedure including a cursory (not full) surgical pre-exam, anesthesia, surgical procedure, waste disposal, day of surgery post-operative care and pain-relief, hospitalization as required, and stitch removal if necessary. Inoculations are the responsibility of the pet-owner and may be required by the veterinarian. Ask the veterinarian about any additional charges before the spay/neuter procedure is performed. All services requested unrelated to a routine spay/neuter procedure are the responsibility of the pet-owner.

The veterinarian may charge additional fees that will be the responsibility of the adopter including but not limited to;

- take-home medications
- if required, SMALL PANEL blood work
- vaccinations (distemper, Bordetella, rabies)
- e-collar

Signature of Adopter *

☐ I have read and fully understand the foregoing Spay/Neuter Contract and agree to be bound to its provisions.
By signing my name, I agree to be bound by this agreement.

Adopter Signature _____

Lucky Chance Rescue Representative: _____

Date: _____



ADOPTER COPY

Lucky Chance Rescue

www.luckychancerescue.com

luckychancerescue@gmail.com

636-515-3515

SPAYED/NEUTERED CERTIFICATE

ANIMAL'S NAME _____

SEX _____

OWNER'S NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

Lucky Chance Rescue Representative Signature

Date

Adopter Signature

Date

This is to certify that the above described animal was spayed / neutered

By: _____

Veterinarian's Signature

Date

Proof of spay/neuter (spay/neuter certificate) must be sent not more than fourteen (14) days after the date shown on this certificate in the form of a scan or photo to luckychancerescue@gmail.com or mailed to:

Lucky Chance Rescue

2303 Flowering Ash Lane

Lake St. Louis, Mo 63367

Thank you for adopting your new furry best friend from Lucky Chance Rescue! Your adoption donation is tax deductible to Lucky Chance Rescue, a 501c3 non-profit. EIN# 83-2954802

What Your Adoption Donation Covers

Veterinary Care Provided Prior To Adoption

- Age-Appropriate Distemper & Bordetella Vaccinations
- Rabies (if older than 16 weeks)
- Spay or Neuter Surgery with a Lucky Chance Rescue Veterinarian
- Fecal exam and Wormer/Necessary Medications
- Monthly Heartworm and Flea/Tick Preventive Prior To Adoption
- Microchip and Registration
- Veterinary Examinations Prior To Adoption
- All medication/hospitalization to treat any illness diagnosed through our veterinarian prior to adoption

Adoption Fees

Adoption Fee is noted on page one of the contract.

Puppy & Adult: \$450.00

Large & Giant Breed: \$500.00

Seniors (7+ years): \$300

We have faced a significant increase in costs for veterinary care, medical supplies, vaccinations and preventatives, therefore, we had to offset these expenses by increasing our adoption fee. Your new rescue dog will always have the best veterinary care while they are with us. We will never cut corners or refuse necessary tests, medications and treatments because of costs. The health and well-being of your dog is our priority.

Please note: Large & Giant Breed will be neutered/spayed between 6-12 months of age; therefore our costs drastically increase based on the weight of the dog at time of surgery.

Adult dogs are fully vetted including heartworm test, fecal test, preventatives while in our care, spay/neuter, microchip + registration, rabies, distemper & bordetella vaccinations.

Ways To Pay:

Website: <https://luckychancerescue.com/adoption-donations/> (Credit/Debit Card, Paypal, Google/Apple Pay)

Venmo: <https://www.venmo.com/u/LuckyChanceRescue>

PayPal: <https://PayPal.me/luckychancerescue>



Lucky Chance Rescue

www.luckychancerescue.com

luckychancerescue@gmail.com

636-515-3515

Adopter Need To Know Information

Dog's Name Per Lucky Chance Records: _____

Age at time of adoption: _____ Approximate or Exact Age? (Circle one)

Flea and heartworm Preventative Due On The _____ of every month

Rabies Due _____

Food Brand Pet Is Currently Eating: _____ Amount

of Foot Pet Is Currently Eating: _____ Cup(s) _____ x Per Day

If you are switching food it is important to mix your new food with the food your pet is currently eating

Day 1	Mix 20% of the new food with 80% of the old food
Day 2	Mix 40% of the new food with 60% of the old food
Day 3	Mix 60% of the new food with 40% of the old food
Day 4	Mix 80% of the new food with 20% of the old food
Day 5	Feed 100% of the new food

Favorite Toy(s) _____

Favorite Treats _____

Favorite Place(s) To Sleep _____

Command(s) Learned in Foster Home _____

Other Notes or fun facts:

HEARTWORMS...

easy to prevent, difficult and costly to cure.

The Truth About
Heartworm Disease
and Your Pet

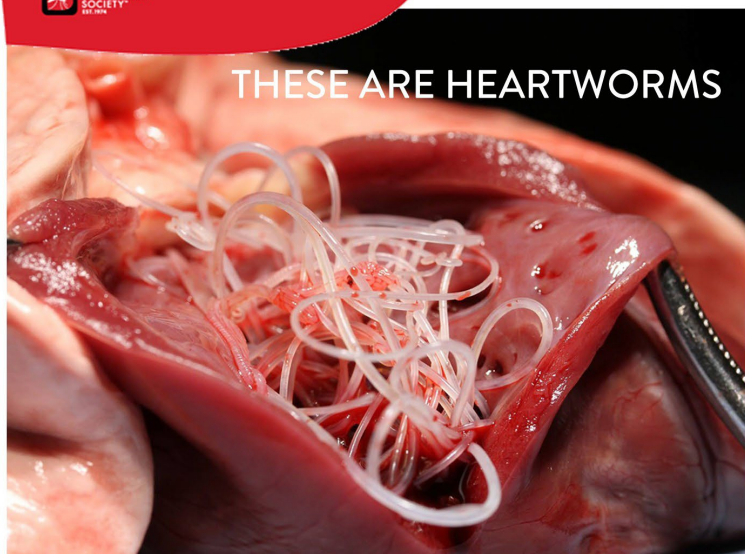
Prevention vs Treatment



HEARTWORM PREVENTION

\$80-\$200 PER YEAR

THESE ARE HEARTWORMS



DID YOU KNOW?

- > The bite of just one mosquito infected with the heartworm larvae will give your dog heartworm disease.
- > It takes about seven months for the larvae to mature into adult heartworms.
- > HEARTWORMS lodge in the heart, lungs, and surrounding blood vessels and begin reproducing.
- > Adult worms can grow up to 12 inches in length, can live 5-7 years
- > A dog can have as many as 250 worms in its system.

HEARTWORM TREATMENTS

\$1400-\$1800

Step One: Pre-Adult Heartworm Treatment

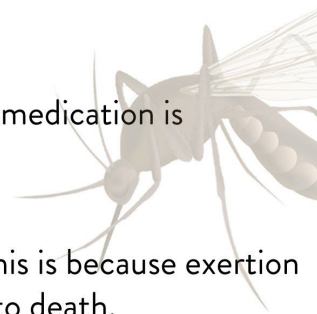
antibiotics, heartworm preventives and steroids when the heartworms die, they release the bacteria into the dog's body.

Step Two: Treating the Disease

The Only FDA Approved Heartworm Medication is Arsenic-Based. The medication is administered through a series of injections

Step Three: During & After Treatment

Your dog will need to remain inactive for weeks, possibly even months. This is because exertion can cause dead worms to become lodged in your pet's lungs, which can lead to death.



CANINE PARVOVIRUS

HOW IS CANINE PARVOVIRUS PREVENTED?

Vaccination and good hygiene are critical components of prevention.

Young puppies are very susceptible to infection, particularly because the natural immunity provided in their mothers' milk may wear off before the puppies' own immune systems are mature enough to fight off infection. If a puppy is exposed to canine parvovirus during this gap in protection, it may become ill. An additional concern is that immunity provided by a mother's milk may interfere with an effective response to vaccination. This means even vaccinated puppies may occasionally be infected by parvovirus and develop disease. To reduce gaps in protection and provide the best protection against parvovirus during the first few months of life, a series of puppy vaccinations are administered. Puppies should receive a dose of canine parvovirus vaccine between 14 and 16 weeks of age, regardless of how many doses they received earlier, to develop adequate protection.

To protect their adult dogs, pet owners should be sure that their dog's parvovirus vaccination is up-to-date. There are titers available that measure the dog's level of antibodies against the canine parvovirus, but the antibody level may not directly translate to protection if the dog is exposed to the virus. Ask your veterinarian about a recommended prevention program for your dog.

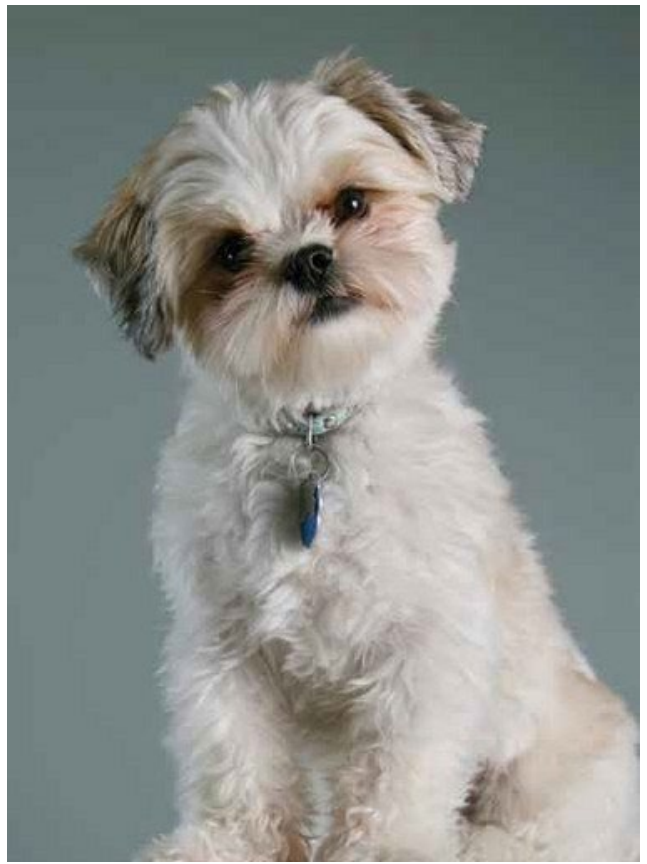
Until a puppy has received its complete series of vaccinations, pet owners should use caution when bringing their pet to places where young puppies congregate (e.g. pet shops, parks, puppy classes, obedience classes, doggy daycare, kennels, and grooming establishments). Reputable establishments and training programs reduce exposure risk by requiring vaccinations,

health examinations, good hygiene, and isolation of ill puppies and dogs. Contact with known infected dogs and their premises should always be avoided.

In spite of proper vaccination, a small percentage of dogs do not develop protective immunity and remain susceptible to infection.

Finally, do not let your puppy or adult dog to come into contact with the fecal waste of other dogs while walking or playing outdoors. Prompt and proper disposal of waste material is always advisable as a way to limit spread of canine parvovirus infection as well as other diseases that can infect humans and animals.

Dogs with vomiting or diarrhea or other dogs which have been exposed to ill dogs should not be taken to kennels, show grounds, dog parks, or other areas where they will come into contact with other dogs. Similarly, unvaccinated dogs should not be exposed to ill dogs or those with unknown vaccination histories. People who are in contact with sick or exposed dogs should avoid handling of other dogs or at least wash their hands and change their clothes before doing so.



VACCINATION AND GOOD HYGIENE
ARE CRITICAL COMPONENTS OF
PREVENTION.



PET POISON **HELPLINE**SM

Did your dog or cat just eat something poisonous? Call your veterinarian or Pet Poison Helpline at 855-764-7661 for help immediately!

EMERGENCY INSTRUCTIONS

What to do if your dog or cat is poisoned:

- Remove your pet from the area.
- Check to make sure your pet is safe: breathing and acting normally.
- Do NOT give any home antidotes.
- Do NOT induce vomiting without consulting a vet or Pet Poison Helpline.
- Call Pet Poison Helpline at 855-764-7661.
- If veterinary attention is necessary, contact your veterinarian or emergency veterinary clinic immediately.

Detailed Instructions:

1. Immediately remove your pet from the area, and make sure no other pets (or kids!) are exposed to this area. Safely remove any remaining poisonous material from their reach.
2. Check to make sure your pet is breathing normally and acting fine otherwise.
3. Collect a sample of the material, along with the packaging, vial, or container, and save it – you will need all that information when you talk to your veterinarian or to a Pet Poison Helpline expert.
4. Do NOT give your dog any milk, food, salt, oil, or any other home remedies! Also, never inducing vomiting without talking to your veterinarian or Pet Poison Helpline – it may be detrimental or contraindicated to induce vomiting!
5. Don't give hydrogen peroxide to your pet without checking with a vet or with Pet Poison Helpline first. For you cat lovers, hydrogen peroxide doesn't work well to induce vomiting (it just causes massive foaming and salivating instead!), and stronger veterinary prescription medications are necessary to get your cat to vomit up the poison Kitty ingested!
6. Get help. Program your veterinarian phone number, along with an ER vet and Pet Poison Helpline's phone number (855-764-7661) in your cell phone so you will always have immediate access to help.

Keep in mind that the prognosis is always better when a toxicity is reported immediately, so don't wait to see if your pet becomes symptomatic before calling for help. It's always less expensive, and safer for your pet for you to call immediately. Remember that there's a narrow window of time when we can decontaminate (induce vomiting or pump the stomach) in the case of a poisoning!



TOXIC FOOD

FOR PETS - DOGS & CATS

ASPCA Poison Control • Call (888) 426-4435*
Pet Poison Helpline • Call (855) 764-7661*
Animal Poison Hotline • Call (888) 232-8870*

Available 24/7
*Fees Apply

Veterinarian: _____
 Emergency Vet: _____

I Food toxicity can range from mild discomfort to severe poisoning. Consult with your pet care professional or veterinarian if you think your pet has ingested a toxic item.

BONES, MEAT & FISH



- Fat Trimmings, Fatty Foods
- Bones: Fish & Poultry
- Raw: Meat, Fish & Eggs

COFFEE/TEA/CAFFEINE



- Energy Drinks, Coffee & Tea

ALCOHOL

- Beer
- Wine
- Liquor



FRUITS/PITS/RAISINS



- Avocado, Rhubarb, Grapefruit
- Grapes/Raisins/Currants
- Fruit Pits/Citrus Rinds (Skins)

VEGETABLES



- Garlic, Onions, Chives, Leeks
- Mushrooms, Tomatoes

DAIRY



- Milk, Cream, 1/2 & 1/2
- Butter, Butter Spread
- Ice Cream, Whipped Cream

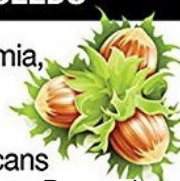
CHOCOLATE & SWEETS



- Chocolate, Gum, Candy
- Sugary Foods (in large amounts)

NUTS & SEEDS

- Nuts: Macadamia, Almonds, Walnuts, Pistachios, Pecans
- Seeds: Sunflower, Pumpkin



SALT & SPICES

- Salty Foods (in large amounts)
- Salt, Pepper, Nutmeg



ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS

- Aspartame or Xylitol (frequently found in sugar free candy, gum, peanut butter)



GRAINS & STARCHES



- Yeast Dough, Moldy Bread
- Homemade Play or Salt Dough
- Potato Skins/Raw Potatoes

JUNK FOOD

- Popcorn (choking hazard)
- Potato, Corn, or Taco Chips
- Fried Food
- French Fries





Lucky Chance Rescue

www.luckychancerescue.com

luckychancerescue@gmail.com

636-515-3515

OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS FOR DOGS

The following is a list of common household medications that are generally safe to use on pets. These medications can be extremely useful if you cannot reach a veterinarian immediately, but is always best to contact your veterinarian before giving any medication to your pet.

DO NOT give your dog ADVIL/MOTRIN, ALEVE, EXCEDRIN, OR TYLENOL. The **ONLY** pain reliever/anti-inflammatory medication you should give your dog is BUFFERED Aspirin (Bufferin)

MEDICATION	SYMPTOMS	DOSAGE FOR DOGS
Benadryl (Diphenhydramine)	Allergies, Itching, Hives	½ mg – 1 mg per pound every 8 hours. Maximum 24-hour dosage 2 mg per pound
Buffered Aspirin (Bufferin)	Pain relief; anti-inflammatory	5 milligrams per pound every 12 hrs
Claritin (Loratidine) (NOT Claritin D)	Allergies, Itching, Hives	Under 15lbs: 2.5mg every 12 hrs. 15lbs-40lbs: 5mg every 12 hrs. Over 40lbs: 10mg every 12 hrs.
Dramamine	Car/Motion Sickness	12.5-50 mg every 8 hrs
Hydrogen Peroxide	Induce vomiting	10 ml by mouth; repeat every 15 minutes until vomiting occurs (not to exceed 3 doses)
Immodium AD (Liquid or Tablet) ** (Loperamide)	Diarrhea	0.05-0.1 mg/pound by mouth every 8 hours.
Kaopectate ** (Loperamide)	Diarrhea	0.5-1.0 ml/pound by mouth every 4-6 hours
Mineral Oil	Constipation	Up to 4 tablespoons daily
Canned Pumpkin NOT pumpkin pie filling	Constipation/diarrhea	2-3 teaspoons every 8-12 hrs
Pepto-Bismol (liquid or tablet) (Bismuth Subsalicylate)	Diarrhea, indigestion, nausea, vomiting	1 teaspoon per 5lbs every 6 hrs 1 caplet per 20lbs every 6 hrs
Robitussin DM	Coughing/hacking	1 teaspoon per 20 lbs every 8-12 hrs

****Many herding breed dogs (shepherds, collies, sheepdogs, etc.) have a genetic predisposition to adverse drug reactions involving over a dozen different drugs. The most serious adverse drug reactions involve several anti-parasitic agents (ivermectin, milbemycin, and related drugs), the anti-diarrheal agent Loperamide (immodium/kapectate), and several anti-cancer drugs (vincristine, doxorubicin, and others). Please consult a veterinarian before giving any medications to herding breed dogs!!!!**



**ADOPTED DOGS take 3 days
to decompress, 3 weeks to
start to know your routine
and 3 months to start to
feel at home.
GIVE THEM THAT CHANCE**



Lucky Chance Rescue

www.luckychancerescue.com

luckychancerescue@gmail.com

636-515-3515

Your New Rescue Dog

Congratulations on adopting a dog from Lucky Chance Rescue! Here are a few things to keep in mind while your new companion adjusts to their new home; The foster is the only safe person the dog knows and trusts so he/she will need time to decompress, get to know you, learn a new routine, and feel safe. Rescue dogs need time to get themselves into a calm state and it's up to you to provide a calm, stress free environment.

Adopting a rescue dog is exciting for everyone with new interactions and adventures to come. BUT WAIT! It's tempting to try to hug and play with a new dog immediately. But, while you might have the best intentions, new dogs have no idea where they are, who they're with, or what is happening, and it takes time to build a positive relationship. The more patient you are, and the more choice a dog is given over seemingly simple things, the faster trust will build. This includes basic interactions, like petting, going for walks, eating, going outside. Be patient.

Recognizing signs of stress, and listening to what they're trying to tell you are all key. You can prevent anxiety-inducing situations and work on building positive associations instead. Always provide a quiet space your dog can choose to retreat to. Some dogs like enclosed spaces and crates, while others might prefer a spot under a table, or in a bedroom. It may take a few weeks for you to determine where the dog is most comfortable. Their safe space should be honored as a place they can always retreat to when they don't want to be bothered, and this includes petting. Ensure interactions are on your dog's terms and not forced. Begin with simply spending quiet time in each other's company. When they're ready and looking for it, offer them affection, food rewards, and calm play sessions. Be mindful of how your pup may be feeling and try not to overstimulate them. Of course, they are just as delighted as you are, but they may need extra time to adjust to their surroundings and their new lifestyle.

They want to fit in and be a part of the pack just as much as you do. It could take a few months before your pup fully adjusts to their new surroundings and truly feels that they are safe and in their forever home. **It is crucial to remember how vulnerable and overwhelmed your dog will feel, act, and appear at this time and this is all completely normal.**

- It can take 2-3 weeks for your new dog to adjust to a new home
- Their real dog personality will not come out just yet, that personality is still acclimating to its new world and may not show for weeks.
- Feeding may be difficult too, as they may not feel comfortable enough to eat or drink
- Sad, or fatigued from the shock of all the change your dog may want to chill under a table or curl up in their crate for a little personal times
- As difficult as it is to ignore your new precious pet during the first few days, limit your expectations and give him/her the space needed. Your dog is beyond overstimulated at this initial stage, thus the less stimulation, the easier it is for your dog to focus on all the change and get to a calm state.
- The length of time for the decompression period depends on the dog in front of you. Your dog's needs are as individual as your own, therefore the period of time is different for each dog.
- Have a safe place for your dog to go when you are not at home. Crate training is essential until you know you can trust your dog to be alone in the home.
- Take the time to observe their body language and listen for any vocal cues they give you. This is the only way they can communicate with you. If your dog is yawning, ears and tail tucked back, excessive panting, crouching, shivering, lip licking, growling, hiding; he/she is stressed!
- Set up gradual introductions between you and your new pup. Don't overstimulate force interactions. There's plenty of time for them to get acquainted with you.
- Set up a crate in a place that is quiet enough that they can seek shelter, but still within an area that they can be engaged with you. Your pup wants to be with you and learn from you as they are learning about you and their new home.
- Provide mentally invigorating toys to your pup, like puzzle toys, snuffle mats and treat balls. The interaction alone allows you to bond with them and leads to a positive experience.

Top Ten Basic Dog Training Commands Every Dog Should Know

There are several basic dog training commands that every dog should know. These commands can help you to manage a variety of common behavior problems, and in some cases may save your dog's life.

1. Recall

The recall ensures that your dog will come running when you call in any and every situation. Training a dog to come may save his life.

2. Look

One of the most important parts of training a dog is making sure his attention stays on you. Teach him the look command so that no matter what distractions are present, you can always get your dog to focus on you.

3. With Me

With me is the dog training command used to keep your dog from pulling on the leash. A loose leash makes walking your dog much more fun, and makes it more likely you'll get your dog out for the exercise and socialization he needs.

4. Leave It

Leave it is the basic dog training command you use to tell your dog not to pick up something he's approaching. It can prevent him from eating something harmful, or help you to save your favorite pair of shoes from being chewed.

5. Drop It

Training a dog to drop it ensures that he'll let go of anything he's picked up in his mouth. Like the leave it command, drop it can save your dog from ingesting anything poisonous or that may cause injury. It will also keep him from chewing up your possessions.

6. Sit

The sit command is usually the first command people teach their dogs. It seems pretty basic, but it can play an important role in managing unwanted behaviors. For instance, a dog can't sit and jump at the same time. By training your dog to sit, you've begun the work needed to prevent him from jumping.

7. Down (Lie Down)

The lie down command is important for several reasons. First, just like the sit command, it's incompatible with certain unwanted behaviors. A dog can't jump up and surf counters while he's lying down. By teaching him to lie down on command, you have a tool to manage a number of common behavior problems. Lie down also serves as the building block for a number of other behaviors. For instance, before you can train a dog to roll over or go to his place, he needs to know how to lie down.

8. Stay

The stay command is useful in a number of situations. It can keep your dog out from under your feet, or it can save his life by preventing him from running into dangerous situations.

9. Come

The come command can save you from a lot of aggravation and frustration. You can use it to get your dog to come if he slips out of his leash, to get him to come quickly inside from the yard, or to come over for some cuddle or play time.

10. Wait

When you give your dog the wait command, it tells him that he can't move until you give him the okay. It is perfect for keeping a dog from bolting out doors or out of his crate.

Helping A Rescue Dog Adjust To A New Home

CONGRATULATIONS to you and your newly adopted dog!

The first few months in a new home for a dog, is a transitional period. Your new dog may act like a guest until he/she is comfortable.

Adoptive owners view their dog's new life in their home as a wonderful change from a shelter pen, but the transition presents an adjustment for a dog. He was adjusted to the shelter surroundings, to the daily routine, and to the shelter personnel. In the kennel he could do as he/she pleased, chew on or eat anything found there, jump up and down or bounce off the walls, bark, go to the bathroom, etc.

When the dog enters your home, he suddenly confronted with a whole new set of social companions in a totally new environment filled with unfamiliar sights, sounds, and smells. It may be confusing, stimulating and a little frightening. He is facing a big adjustment as he learns his way around and develops relationships with his new family. In the process you may have to contend with some undesirable behavior. **DON'T PANIC!** By modifying or re-directing his actions, you can help him become a model member of the family.



WHAT TO EXPECT

A new dog doesn't know your rules immediately upon arrival. Expect a few housetraining accidents, maybe some raids on trashcans and cabinets that are not dog proof, jumping up, exploratory behaviors like sniffing, mouthing and some chewing and maybe losing something you value. At one time, the dog may have had a housetraining schedule but that schedule maybe different in your house. It will take a little time for your new dog to learn your house rules and boundaries.

Stealing Food: In your home, which the dog perceives as a huge new pen, he follows the old rules. His nose leads him to kitchen cupboards, garbage pails, and used paper napkins. Certain breeds like hounds may be most predisposed to these foraging behaviors.

Jumping Up: He may try to get up on furniture, kitchen counters, windowsills, and people. It is normal for a dog to try to look out the window or jump up on people especially if these behaviors were rewarded by people paying him attention or pushing him off.

Exploratory Behavior: This includes sniffing, mouthing and chewing new things. Your dog makes an adaptive response in trying to find out, the canine way, what things have what uses. Sometimes this exploration can cause damage to your home or injury to the dog.

Play In the House: Frequently children and adults, encourage this behavior as a way of making friends. Rough housing does not help a new pet feel at home. It will only help the animal feel more insecure about the rules.

You will lose something of Value: To most animals, anything can be considered a toy. Animals have no idea which items, in the home we consider to be valued treasures.

MANAGING YOUR DOG DURING THE TRANSITION

Dogs are impressionable in a new environment. Plan to invest some time during this period to socialize, teach, and get acquainted with your new pet. For a well socialized dog, the adjustment process can take, on average, two weeks to two months. For under-socialized dog it can take up to a year or longer to become accustomed to the new environments, people and routine. So how a dog acts within that initial two-week period may or may not be how a dog will act once he's comfortable. Set your expectations accordingly during your dog's adjustment.

FIRST THINGS FIRST When you arrive home with your new pet:

1. Take him immediately outside (on lead) to see if he needs to go potty.
 2. If he does both things, praise him effusively and then reward with a few minutes of play, sniffing or a walk. Bring him back inside for supervised freedom of a dog proofed room with an easy to clean floor (dragging the leash).
 3. If not, introduce your dog to his safe area and give him something to do while he is there like a stuffed kong.
- When your dog is empty, allow a bit of supervised freedom in a dog proofed room with an easy to clean floor. No carpet if possible! **Let him drag the leash around**. If for some reason, you need to stop the dog, you have a leash to grab and not a strange dog.
 - Introduce him/her to your house on your regular schedule. Spending all of your free time doting on him, will only make it harder when it is time for you to go back to work. Use this time to practice leaving him alone in your house while you are at home, for short periods of time with something to do.
 - If you cannot supervise, confine. **DO NOT GIVE RUN OF YOUR HOUSE**. The most important thing a new dog needs for the first few weeks is *STRUCTURE* - rules for living in your house. Total freedom will come later, as he develops the responsibility to handle it. (See section on CRATING)

What rules should you teach?

House Training: *Urinating and defecating should happen outside the house.*

- Take your dog outside (on a leash), frequently (2-3 hour intervals), more often for a puppy. Go to a designated bathroom area in yard and stay there until your dog goes potty.
- Praise verbally or with food right then and there when the dog "goes potty".
- Allow the dog to drag the leash around, inside the house. If the dog does start to have an accident, interrupt with "Whoops", immediately take the dog outside.

Stealing Food: *Dog proof your house and never trust a dog to watch your food.*

- Make sure food is put away and behind "doggie proof" doors.
- Lock up the garbage pail or trashcans to remove temptations.

No Jumping up: *Don't encourage jumping up by ignoring your dog until all four are on the floor.*

- Teach the dog to "**Sit**", for everything as part of Nothing In Life is Free Program.
- Highly reward your dog each and every time he sits. All sits should appear on your radar.
- Observe your dog's behavior and use "UH OH" to remind your dog that paws up on things is not a good choice. Remember, people should ignore dog who jump up on them.

Chewing: *Chewing and mouthing should only be permitted on dog toys.*

- Trade your dog with a better appropriate toy (chew bone/toy) for an inappropriate item.
- Teach your new dog to "Leave it" or "Drop" on cue
- Never just take or you may inadvertently teach your new dog to protect his stuff from you.

Play: *Rough house play should not be encouraged.*

- Teach your dog when to play by using a cue word like "LET'S PLAY" before play begins.
- Cue "DONE" to signal the play session has ending then engage your dog elsewhere.

Losing Something of Value: *Keep the things you value in "dog proof" place until after transitional period.*

BUILDING TRUST WITH PEOPLE

Building trust is the foundation of your relationship with this new member of the family. It is important to allow enough time for your new pet to get to know his new family. A rushed relationship is bound to hurt all members of the family. *Remember: This new pet is a stranger!* It will take time to get to know his/her likes and dislikes.

DO'S AND DO NOTS

DO incorporate a family routine into your new pet's schedule. Encourage everyone to plan individual times, every day, to get to know the new pet. Plan time together as a family too!

DO use feeding times to strengthen your relationship. Feed set meals and encourage the dog to sit/wait while you place his food down. Make him wait a few minutes then signal him to begin. Dogs know who feeds them.

DO find fun appropriate things to do with your new pet. Be creative!

DO use positive reward based training. Dogs learn faster and enjoy learning if you use praise rather than punishment. Punishment often will make behavioral issues worse.

DO NOT to do too much with your new pet. Avoid baths, nail trimming, hugging and *grabbing your new dog by the collar*. Give your pet some time to adjust to its new surroundings before attempting any grooming. If a clean dog is absolutely necessary, seek professional help.

DO keep your new dog on its leash when outside for a walk. Even if you have a fenced in yard, walk the dog along your property's boundaries. **DO NOT** let the dog off the leash until he/she comes reliable on a recall regardless of what may be happening in their environment.

DO NOT remove objects from his mouth until after you know the dog. Encourage children to avoid situations that might encourage a dog to take things from their hands. *Trade rather than take*. Adults should use a treat to trade for toys and rawhides.

Socialization

As much as possible (and keeping your dog's safety in mind) **you can help your dog** get started on the road to becoming a well-rounded well socialized dog! **Introduce to all kinds of people** ensuring they have good experiences (play, pets & treats).

- People wearing sunglasses
- People with canes, or walkers
- Teenagers
- Children standing as well as playing
- Toddlers (walking and squealing)
- Infants (crawling)
- Women
- People of different ethnicities
- Tall men
- Men with deep voices
- Men with beards
- Elderly people
- People wearing hats/helmets
- People wearing hoodies
- People wearing backpacks
- People wearing uniforms (fire/police, veterinarians)

Sights, Sounds & Surfaces

Puppies are cataloguing other things in their environment besides people and animals. Make sure they see, hear and feel common and uncommon things. Praise and treat the puppies every time they come into contact with something new so they have positive associations with these experiences. Here are some examples of things they may come across in your home or out in the environment you can introduce them to:

- Traffic
- Fireworks
- Alarms
- Dogs barking
- Doorbell ringing
- Thunder
- Construction equipment
- Vacuum cleaner
- Sirens
- Skateboards
- Concrete
- Slippery floors (hardwood, linoleum, marble)
- Metal surfaces (manhole covers, vet scales etc.)
- Stairs
- Wet grass
- Mud
- Ice, frost, or snow
- Garbage cans outside
- Shopping carts
- Baby strollers
- Wheel chairs
- Bikes
- Cars
- Buses
- Motorcycles
- Pots & pans
- Blankets/ rugs being shaken
- Brooms
- Balloons, especially popping!
- Umbrellas
- Plastic bags blowing in the wind
- Garbage cans in the house

Handling

Handle the puppy ALL THE TIME so he learns to love it

- Touch ears
- Touch mouth
- Squeezing the paws
- Wiping body with a towel
- Touch nose
- Cradling puppy in your arms on its back
- Holding puppy in your lap
- Holding puppy on its back while giving a belly rub
- Hugging puppy
- Clipping nails
- Brushing/Grooming
- Bathing
- Touching collar
- Touching all over body

Take note on their responses;

- Over-Arousal: growl, nip, bark, struggle (for handling), lunge.
- Avoid: struggle, hide, try to get away, won't approach or hesitant to approach.
- Freeze: holds still, non-explanatory, moving slowly or acting sleepy when they shouldn't be tired.
- Calm/Relaxed: explores the object or environment, playful

Nothing In Life Is Free

Does your dog: Get on the furniture and refuse to get off? Nudge your hand, insisting on being petted or played with? Refuse to come when called? Defend its food bowl or toys from you? “Nothing in life is free” can help. “Nothing in life is free” is not a magic pill that will solve a specific behavior problem; rather it’s a way of living with your dog that will help him behave better because he trusts and accepts you as his leader and is confident knowing his place in your family.

How to practice “nothing in life is free:”

- ❖ Using positive reinforcement methods, teach your dog a few commands and/or tricks. “Sit,” “Down” and “Stay” are useful commands and “Shake,” “Speak” and “Rollover” are fun tricks to teach your dog.
- ❖ Once your dog knows a few commands, you can begin to practice “nothing in life is free.” Before you give your dog anything (food, a treat, a walk, a pat on the head) it must first perform one of the commands it has learned. For example:

YOU:

Put your dog’s leash on to go for a walk
Feed your dog
Play a game of fetch after work
Rub your dog’s belly while watching TV

YOUR DOG:

Must sit until you’ve put the leash on
Must lie down and stay until you’ve put the bowl down
Must sit and shake hands each time you throw the toy
Must lie down and rollover before being petted

- ❖ Once you’ve given the command, don’t give your dog what it wants until it does what you want. If it refuses to perform the command, walk away, come back a few minutes later and start again. If your dog refuses to obey the command, be patient and remember that eventually it will have to obey your command in order to get what it wants.
- ❖ Make sure your dog knows the command well and understands what you want before you begin practicing “nothing in life is free.”

The benefits of this technique:


- ❖ Most dogs assume a neutral or submissive role toward people, but some dogs will challenge their owners for dominance. Requiring a dominant dog to work for everything it wants is a safe and non-confrontational way to establish control.
- ❖ Dogs who may never display aggressive behavior such as growling, snarling, or snapping, may still manage to manipulate you. These dogs may display affectionate, though “pushy” behavior, such as nudging your hand to be petted or “worming” its way on to the furniture in order to be close to you. This technique gently reminds the “pushy” dog that it must abide by your rules.
- ❖ Obeying commands helps build a fearful dog’s confidence; having a strong leader and knowing its place in the hierarchy helps to make the submissive dog feel more secure.


Why this technique works:

Animals that live in groups, like dogs, establish a social structure within the group called a dominance hierarchy. This dominance hierarchy serves to maintain order, reduce conflict and promote cooperation among pack members. In order for your home to be a safe and happy place for pets and people, it’s best that the humans in the household assume the highest positions in the dominance hierarchy. Practicing “nothing in life is free” effectively and gently communicates to your dog that its position in the hierarchy is subordinate to yours. From your dog’s point of view, children also have a place in this hierarchy. Because children are small and can get down on the dog’s level to play, dogs often consider them to be playmates, rather than superiors. With the supervision of an adult, it’s a good idea to encourage children in the household (aged eight and over) to also

Positive Reinforcement: Training Your Dog With Treats And Praise

Positive reinforcement is the presentation of something pleasant or rewarding immediately following a behavior. It makes that behavior more likely to occur in the future, and is one of the most powerful tools for shaping or changing your pet's behavior.

 Correct timing is essential when using positive reinforcement. The reward must occur immediately, or your pet may not associate it with the proper action. For example, if you have your dog "sit," but reward him after he's already stood up again, he'll think he's being rewarded for standing up.

 Consistency is also essential. Everyone in the family should use the same commands. It might be helpful to post these where everyone can become familiar with them. The most commonly used commands for dogs are "watch me," "sit," "stay," "down" (means lie down), "off" (means off of me or off the furniture), "stand," "come," "heel," (or "let's go" or "with me") "leave it" and "settle." Consistency means always rewarding the desired behavior and never rewarding undesired behavior.

For your pet, positive reinforcement may include *food treats, praise, petting or a favorite toy or game*. Food treats work especially well for training your dog. A treat should be enticing and irresistible to your pet. It should be a very small, soft, piece of food, so that he will immediately gulp it down and look to you for more. If you give him something he has to chew or that breaks into bits and falls on the floor, he'll be looking around the floor, not at you. Small pieces of soft commercial treats, hot dogs, cheese, cooked chicken or beef, or miniature marshmallows have all proven successful. Experiment a bit to see what works best for your pet. You may carry the treats in a pocket or a fanny pack on the front of your belt. There are even special treat packs available in many pet stores. Each time you use a food

reward, you should couple it with a verbal reward (praise). Say something like, "Good boy" in a positive, happy tone of voice.

Note: Some pets may not be interested in food treats. For those pets, the reward could be in the form of a toy or brief play.

When your pet is learning a new behavior, he should be rewarded every time he does the behavior (continuous reinforcement). It may be necessary to use "shaping," with your pet (reinforcing something close to the desired response and gradually requiring more from your dog before he gets the treat). For example, if you're teaching your dog to "shake hands," you may initially reward him for lifting his paw off the ground, then for lifting it higher, then for touching your hand, then for letting you hold his paw and finally, for actually shaking hands with you.

Intermittent reinforcement can be used once your pet has reliably learned the behavior. At first, you may reward him with the treat three times out of four, then about half the time, then about a third of the time and so forth, until you're only rewarding him occasionally with the treat. Continue to praise him every time, although once he's learned the behavior, the praise can be less effusive - a quiet, but positive, "Good boy." Use a variable schedule of reinforcement, so he doesn't catch on that he only has to respond every other time. Your pet will learn that if he keeps responding, eventually he'll get what he wants. If you have a dog who barks until you reward him by paying attention to him, you've seen the power of intermittent reinforcement.

By understanding reinforcement, you can see that you're not forever bound to carry a pocketful of goodies. Your pet will soon be working for your verbal praise, because he really does want to please you and he knows that occasionally, he'll get a treat, too! There are many small opportunities to reinforce his behavior. You may have him "sit" before letting him out the door (helps prevent door-darting), before petting him (helps prevent jumping up on people) or before giving him his food. Give him a pat or a "Good dog" for lying quietly by your feet or slip a treat into his Kong toy when he's chewing it, instead of your shoe.

Punishment, including verbal, postural and physical, is the presentation of something unpleasant immediately following a behavior which makes it less likely that the behavior will occur again. To be effective, punishment must be delivered while your pet is engaged in the undesirable behavior, in other words, "caught in the act." If the punishment is delivered too late, your pet will feel "ambushed." From his point of view, the punishment is totally unpredictable, and he's likely to become fearful, distrusting and/or aggressive. This will only lead to more behavior problems. What we humans interpret as "guilty" looks, are actually submissive postures by our pets. Animals don't have a moral sense of right and wrong, but they are adept at associating your presence and the presence of a mess, with punishment.

If you've tried punishment and it hasn't worked, you should definitely stop using punishment and use positive reinforcement instead. Physical punishment usually involves some level of discomfort or even pain, which is likely to cause your pet to bite, as that is the only way he knows to defend himself. Scruff shakes and "alpha rolls" are likely to result in bites, especially if the dog doesn't perceive you to be his superior. Also, punishment might be associated with other stimuli, including people, that are present at the time the punishment occurs. For example, a pet that's punished for getting too close to a small child may become fearful of or aggressive to that child.

The Educated Dog

When you feel frustrated with your dog's behavior, remember that someone must teach a dog what is acceptable behavior and what is not. A dog that hasn't been given any instructions, training or boundaries can't possibly know what you expect of him. By teaching your dog how you want him to behave, you'll not only have a saner household, but a healthier and happier dog as well.

An Educated Dog:

- ❖ Allows you to handle every part of his body, to check for injury or illness and to give him medication.
- ❖ Has good manners, so he can spend most of his time indoors with his people. That means more supervision, less boredom and fewer opportunities for dangerous mischief. The more time you spend with your dog, the more likely you'll be to notice when something is wrong with him, like a limp, a cough, a sensitive area or a loss of appetite. By recognizing such irregularities early, you can seek medical attention immediately and, hopefully, prevent more serious problems.
- ❖ Wants to stay near you, listening for instructions (and praise). This means he'll have less opportunity to stray into danger.
- ❖ Will walk or run beside you on a leash without pulling, dragging or strangling, so you and your dog can get more exercise and spend more time together.
- ❖ Knows that "drop it" and "leave it alone" are phrases that mean business, so he'll have fewer opportunities to swallow dangerous objects. He also can be taught what things and places are out of bounds, like hot stoves, heaters or anxious cats. However, you'll still need to limit his access to dangerous places when you cannot supervise or instruct him.
- ❖ Will "sit" immediately, simply because you say so. No matter what danger may be imminent, a dog that is suddenly still is suddenly safe. And a dog that will "stay" in that position is even safer.
- ❖ Understands his boundaries, knows what's expected of him and has fewer anxieties. Less stress means a healthier dog.

By training your dog, you can help prevent tragedy and develop a better relationship with him. Keep in mind, however, that even an educated dog needs supervision, instruction and boundaries -- sometimes even physical boundaries. Allowing your dog, no matter how educated he may be, to walk, run or roam outside of a fenced area or off of a leash, is putting him in danger. Please see our Socialization Handout to help your dog become an educated, socialized dog.

Crate Training Your Dog

Crate training your dog may take some time and effort, but can be useful in a variety of situations. If you have a new dog or puppy, you can use the crate to limit his access to the house until he learns all the house rules – like what he can and can't chew on and where he can and can't eliminate. A crate is also a safe way of transporting your dog in the car, as well as a way of taking him places where he may not be welcome to run freely. If you properly train your dog to use the crate, he'll think of it as his safe place and will be happy to spend time there when needed.



Selecting A Crate

Crates may be plastic (often called “flight kennels”) or collapsible, metal pens. They come in different sizes and can be purchased at most pet supply stores. Your dog's crate should be just large enough for him to stand up and turn around in.

The Crate Training Process

Crate training can take days or weeks, depending on your dog's age, temperament and past experiences. It's important to keep two things in mind while crate training. The crate should always be associated with something pleasant, and training should take place in a series of small steps - don't go too fast.

Step 1: Introducing Your Dog To The Crate

- ♦ Put the crate in an area of your house where the family spends a lot of time, such as the family room. Put a soft blanket or towel in the crate. Bring your dog over to the crate and talk to him in a happy tone of voice. Make sure the crate door is securely fastened opened so it won't hit your dog and frighten him.
- ♦ To encourage your dog to enter the crate, drop some small food treats near it, then just inside the door, and finally, all the way inside the crate. If he refuses to go all the way in at first, that's okay – don't force him to enter. Continue tossing treats into the crate until your dog will walk calmly all the way into the crate to get the food. If he isn't interested in treats, try tossing a favorite toy in the crate. This step may take a few minutes or as long as several days.



Step 2: Feeding Your Dog His Meals In The Crate

- ♦ After introducing your dog to the crate, begin feeding him his regular meals near the crate. This will create a pleasant association with the crate. If your dog is readily entering the crate when you begin Step 2, put the food dish all the way at the back of the crate. If your dog is still reluctant to enter the crate, put the dish only as far inside as he will readily go without becoming fearful or anxious. Each time you feed him, place the dish a little further back in the crate.
- ♦ Once your dog is standing comfortably in the crate to eat his meal, you can close the door while he's eating. At first, open the door as soon as he finishes his meal. With each successive feeding, leave the door closed a few minutes longer, until he's staying in the crate for ten minutes or so after eating. If he begins to whine to be let out, you may have increased the length of time too quickly. Next time, try leaving him in the crate for a shorter time period. If he does whine or cry in the crate, it's imperative that you not let him out until he stops. Otherwise, he'll learn that the way to get out of the crate is to whine, so he'll keep doing it.

Step 3: Conditioning Your Dog To The Crate For Longer Time Periods

- ♦ After your dog is eating his regular meals in the crate with no sign of fear or anxiety, you can confine him there for short time periods while you're home. Call him over to the crate and give him a treat. Give him a command to enter such as, “kennel up.” Encourage him by pointing to the inside of the crate with a treat in your hand. After your dog enters the crate, praise him, give him the treat and close the door. Sit quietly near the crate for five to ten minutes and then go into another room for a few minutes. Return, sit quietly again for a short time, then let him out of the crate. Repeat this process several times a day. With each repetition, gradually increase the length of time you leave him in the crate and the length of time you're out of his sight. Once your dog will stay quietly in the crate for about 30 minutes with you out of sight the majority of the time, you can begin leaving him crated when you're gone for short time periods and/or letting him sleep there at night. This may take several days or several weeks.

Step 4:

Part A Crating Your Dog When Left Alone

After your dog is spending about 30 minutes in the crate without becoming anxious or afraid, you can begin leaving him crated for short periods when you leave the house. Put him in the crate using your regular command and a treat. You might also want to leave him with a few safe toys in the crate (see our handout: “Dog Toys and How to Use Them”). You’ll want to vary at what point in your “getting ready to leave” routine you put your dog in the crate. Although he shouldn’t be crated for a long time before you leave, you can crate him anywhere from five to 20 minutes prior to leaving. Don’t make your departures emotional and prolonged, but matter-of-fact. Praise your dog briefly, give him a treat for entering the crate and then leave quietly. When you return home, don’t reward your dog for excited behavior by responding to him in an excited, enthusiastic way. Keep arrivals low key. Continue to crate your dog for short periods from time to time when you’re home so he doesn’t associate crating with being left alone.

Part B Crating Your Dog At Night

Put your dog in the crate using your regular command and a treat. Initially, it may be a good idea to put the crate in your bedroom or nearby in a hallway, especially if you have a puppy. Puppies often need to go outside to eliminate during the night, and you’ll want to be able to hear your puppy when he whines to be let outside. Older dogs, too, should initially be kept nearby so that crating doesn’t become associated with social isolation. Once your dog is sleeping comfortably through the night with his crate near you, you can begin to gradually move it to the location you prefer.

Potential Problems

❖ Too Much Time In The Crate

A crate isn’t a magical solution. If not used correctly, a dog can feel trapped and frustrated. For example, if your dog is crated all day while you’re at work and then crated again all night, he’s spending too much time in too small a space. Other arrangements should be made to accommodate his physical and emotional needs. Also remember that 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 and bowels for longer periods.

❖ Whining

If your dog whines or cries while in the crate at night, it may be difficult to decide whether he’s whining to be let out of the crate, or whether he needs to be let outside to eliminate. If you followed the training procedures outlined above, your dog hasn’t been rewarded for whining in the past by being released from his crate. Try to ignore the whining. If your dog is just testing you, he’ll probably stop whining soon. Yelling at him or pounding on the crate will only make things worse. If the whining continues after you’ve ignored him for several minutes, use the phrase he associates with going outside to eliminate. If he responds and becomes excited, take him outside. This should be a trip with a purpose, not play time. If you’re convinced that your dog doesn’t need to eliminate, the best response is to ignore him until he stops whining. Don’t give in, otherwise you’ll teach your dog to whine loud and long to get what he wants. If you’ve progressed gradually through the training steps and haven’t done too much too fast, you’ll be less likely to encounter this problem. If the problem becomes unmanageable, you may need to start the crate training process over again.

❖ Separation Anxiety

Attempting to use the crate as a remedy for separation anxiety won’t solve the problem. A crate may prevent your dog from being destructive, but he may injure himself in an attempt to escape from the crate. Separation anxiety problems can only be resolved with counter-conditioning and desensitization procedures. You may want to consult a professional animal behaviorist for help (see our handout: “Separation Anxiety”).

Dog Toys And How To Use Them

“Safe” Toys

There are many factors that contribute to the safety or danger of a toy. Many of those factors, however, are completely dependent upon your dog's size, activity level and personal preference. Another factor to be considered is the environment in which your dog spends his time. Although we can't guarantee your dog's enthusiasm or his safety with any specific toy, we can offer the following guidelines.

Be Cautious

The things that are usually the most attractive to dogs are often the very things that are the most dangerous. Dog-proof your home by checking for: string, ribbon, rubber bands, children's toys, pantyhose and anything else that could be ingested.

- ✓ Toys should be appropriate for your dog's current size. Balls and other toys that are too small can easily be swallowed or become lodged in your dog's mouth or throat.
- ✓ Avoid or alter any toys that aren't "dog-proof" by removing ribbons, strings, eyes or other parts that could be chewed and/or ingested. Avoid any toy that starts to break into pieces or have pieces torn off. You should also avoid "tug-of-war" toys, unless they'll be used between dogs, not between people and dogs.
- ✓ Ask your veterinarian about which rawhide toys are safe and which are not. Unless your veterinarian says otherwise, "chewies" like hooves, pig's ears and rawhides, should be supervision-only goodies. Very hard rubber toys are safer and last longer.
- ✓ Take note of any toy that contains a "squeaker" buried in its center. Your dog may feel that he must find and destroy the squeak-source and could ingest it, in which case squeaking objects should be "supervision only" toys.
- ✓ Check labels for child safety, as a stuffed toy that's labeled as safe for children under three years old, doesn't contain dangerous fillings. Problem fillings include things like nutshells and polystyrene beads, however, even a "safe" stuffing isn't truly digestible.
- ✓ Remember that soft toys are not indestructible, but some are sturdier than others. Soft toys should be machine washable.

Toys We Recommend

Enrichment Toys:

- ♦ Is any toy that can dispense dry or canned food like a Kong. These are available in a variety of shapes, sizes and have varying levels of difficulty.
- ♦ Fill with kibble or stuff with canned food, put it down and watch your dog knock it around, lick it, paw at it and toss it to get the food to spill out. Enrichment feeding often replaces boring "bowl" feeding and can help a dog feel full faster.
- ♦ Great for young, active, over-weight or food inhaling dogs. Enrichment feeding provides an outlet for normal dog drives like scavenging, hunting and foraging.

Active Toys:

- ♦ Very hard rubber toys, like Nylabone-type products and Kong-type products. These are available in a variety of shapes and sizes and are fun for chewing and for carrying around.
- ♦ "Rope" toys that are usually available in a "bone" shape with knotted ends.
- ♦ Tennis balls make great dog toys, but keep an eye out for any that could be chewed through and discard them.

Distraction Toys:

- ♦ Kong-type toys, especially when filled with broken-up treats or, even better, a mixture of broken-up treats and peanut butter. The right size Kong can keep a puppy or dog busy for hours. Only by chewing diligently can your dog access the treats, and then only in small bits - very rewarding! Double-check with your veterinarian about whether or not you should give peanut butter to your dog.
- ♦ "Busy-box" toys are large rubber cubes with hiding places for treats. Only by moving the cube around with his nose, mouth and paws, can your dog access the goodies.

Comfort Toys:

- ♦ Soft stuffed toys are good for several purposes, but aren't appropriate for all dogs. For some dogs, the stuffed toy should be small enough to carry around. For dogs that want to shake or "kill" the toy, it should be the size that "prey" would be for that size dog (mouse-size, rabbit-size or duck-size).
- ♦ Dirty laundry, like an old t-shirt, pillowcase, towel or blanket, can be very comforting to a dog, especially if it smells like you! Be forewarned that the item could be destroyed by industrious fluffing, carrying and nosing.

Get The Most Out Of Toys!

- ❖ Rotate your dog's toys weekly by making only four or five toys available at a time. Keep a variety of types easily accessible. If your dog has a huge favorite, like a soft "baby," you should probably leave it out all the time, or risk the wrath of your dog!
- ❖ Provide toys that offer a variety of uses - at least one toy to carry, one to "kill", one to roll and one to "baby."
- ❖ "Hide and Seek" is a fun game for dogs to play. "Found" toys are often much more attractive than a toy which is blatantly introduced. Making an interactive game out of finding toys or treats is a good "rainy-day" activity for your dog, using up energy without the need for a lot of space.
- ❖ Many of your dog's toys should be interactive. Interactive play is very important for your dog because he needs active "people time." By focusing on a specific task, like repeatedly returning a ball, Kong or Frisbee, or playing "hide-and-seek" with treats or toys, your dog can expend pent-up mental and physical energy in a limited amount of time and space. This greatly reduces stress due to confinement, isolation and/or boredom. For young, high-energy and untrained dogs, interactive play also offers an opportunity for socialization and helps them learn about appropriate and inappropriate behavior with people and with other animals, like jumping up or being mouthy.



Loose Leash Walking

Teaching a Guide Dog Puppy Loose Leash Walking – “Let’s Go”

Focus is on rewarding puppies with food for desired leash walking behavior before the puppy begins pulling on leash. Desired leash walking (i.e. loose leash, staying at left leg, aware of the handler without staring at the handler) is marked with “Nice” to promote loose leash walking.

Goal

Upon the verbal cue “Let’s Go”, the puppy walks on the handler’s left side next to the handler’s left leg (with the area between the dog’s nose and shoulder beside the handler’s leg) on a loose leash in a variety of environments, including those with distractions.

Video Reference

<https://youtu.be/8Mvm4vj5s0Y>

Preparation

Food reward location and delivery

- Puppies under 4 months of age: Handler has bait bag on left side and will deliver food rewards to the puppy using left hand.
- Puppies over 4 months of age: Handler has bait bag centered on the lower back, out of sight of the puppy, and will deliver food rewards to the puppy using left hand. Note: pockets may be used to store food temporarily but due to the amount of food being dispensed a bait bag is more practical.
- Food reward is delivered next to the handler’s left leg – where the puppy was at the time it was marked with “Nice”.
- Always make sure you have plenty of food rewards in your pouch or pocket.

Marking Desired Behavior with the Verbal “Nice”

- Strive to make your verbal “Nice” sound unique, not like speaking the word nice in conversation. Shortening the word and putting a higher pitch on the word than normal will help it stand out to the puppy as a marker versus a word.
- Only move towards the food reward after finishing the verbal marker of “Nice”. Hand movements towards the food rewards will distract the puppy from being aware of what behavior resulted in the food.
- Always follow your verbal “Nice” with a food reward. This keeps it as a strong marker signal to the puppy.

Criteria for Loose Leash Walking

All of the conditions below should be met for you to mark the puppy with “Nice”, followed with food reward.

- Puppy is walking
- Puppy is on the left side with their ear next to the handlers left pant seam
- There is enough slack in the leash to prevent pressure on the neck collar or head collar
- Puppy is looking in the direction it is traveling in, not staring at the handler

Getting Started

- With the puppy on your left side, say “Let’s go” and begin walking
- Be ready to mark before the puppy begins to walk ahead and pull
- Watch for all of the above criteria to be met (but don’t stare at the puppy!)
- Mark with “Nice”, and gradually come to a stop, taking a few steps to do so. If you stop too suddenly the puppy might “overshoot”
- Hold the leash such that that you can reach for a piece of kibble with your left hand
- Deliver the kibble along the plane of your left pant leg. The pup will maintain a straight position more easily if it is fed from the left hand straight in front of its nose
- Pause your walking until the puppy swallows
- Begin walking again and repeat steps. The more marks the puppy receives, the more loose leash behavior the puppy will offer you

Notes

- A high rate of reward (how often you mark with “Nice”) is essential in teaching this skill. You will want to ensure a high rate of reward when:
 - first beginning this exercise in order to keep the puppy engaged
 - working with a puppy who has a tendency to pull on the leash
 - working in an environment with increased distractions
- Practice in an “easy” environment each day in order to build the puppy’s skill in the behavior. This may be around your block or just in front of your house. With fewer distractions you will give the puppy more successful repetitions in loose leash walking.
- The rate of reward will vary based on the environment you are in. But don’t be stingy! You cannot really over mark the puppy as long as the puppy is performing the criteria listed above.
- Your placement of reward during food delivery must be consistent and accurate. Bring the food to the puppy (where they were during the “Nice”). Avoid letting the puppy be rewarded for moving to the food. If the puppy moves forward after your “Nice”, with food in your hand, gently push the puppy back a few steps into the original position as you deliver the kibble.
- You will always need food rewards on you! This training technique is for all kinds of walking (e.g. in stores, around the block, around the office). The puppy should be rewarded for loose leash walking regardless of where you are.
- Food that goes into your bait bag needs to come out of your puppy’s daily ration. It is recommended that you put most of your puppy’s meal inside your bait bag; at the end of the day what is left goes into his bowl.
- If you are practicing and the puppy is still pulling or creating a tight leash, see your leader.