

**Before bringing your dog home:**

Be prepared the day before you pick him up with all the food and supplies you need, listed below. Also you need to puppy proof your house by picking up all small, breakable, or dangerous chemical items from within the dogs reach. Assign roles to each household member, maybe John will take the dog for a walk, but Katie needs to feed him each day.

**The Car ride home:**

Place your dog securely in a crate or carrier for the ride home. He should not be on the seats of your car unless he has a special dog made seatbelt on.

**What should I feed my dog?**

Dogs should have water always available to them.

Dogs eat a carnivorous diet but have adapted to kibble because they are no longer wolves in the wild and are now domesticated house pets. Kibble should include main ingredients such as “chicken” or “beef” or “salmon”. Ingredients should not include “chicken byproduct” or “chicken meal”, sugar, food dyes such as “Red 40”.

**What foods are bad for my dog?**

Chocolate, macadamia nuts and walnuts, grapes and raisins, avocados, alcohol, sugar and desserts, oils, cooked meat bones, too much dairy, fruit pits and seeds, human vitamins and medications, onions, garlic, raw meat and eggs, spoiled food of any kind, Xylitol (a type of chemical in food), yeast dough.

**Necessary Items for Dogs:**

- Food and water bowls
- Food (canned and/or dry)
- Collar
- Four to six-foot leash (we recommend non retractable)
- ID tag with your name, phone number and address
- Hard plastic carrier or foldable metal crate
- Dog bed
- Doggy shampoo and conditioner
- Canine toothbrush and toothpaste
- Brush or comb (depends on your dog’s coat length and type)
- Non-toxic cleaner
- Plastic poop baggies (biodegradable ones are best) or pooper scooper
- Variety of toys (a ball, rope, chew toy and puzzle toy are good starts)

- Variety of treats

### **How often should I get my dog groomed?**

This depends on the dog breed and style of fur you want to have on your dog. Certain breeds shed more and need to be brushed regularly, but you can also pay a groomer to do this. All dogs should start getting used to a trim at the salon at a young age. Every dog needs their nails trimmed regularly by recommendation of the groomer. Groomers are especially handy when your dog encounters a skunk, they have special shampoo to get that out.

### **How much exercise does my dog need?**

This all is determined by age, breed, and the dog's weight.

If your dog is energetic and young you will need to walk him more.

If your vet says your dog is overweight you might need to exercise him more, play time longer, etc.

If your dog is older he might not have the same energy as the puppy next door

### **What does my dog's body language mean?**

Scared: Tail tucked between legs, hair standing up, ears drooped down, whimpering

Aggressive: barking, showing teeth, lunging, growling

Happy: Wagging tail, barking

Tired: Laying down, panting tongue (this is how dogs sweat)

### **How can I tell if my dog needs to go to the vet?**

Take him to a qualified veterinarian as soon as you bring him home. He needs several rounds of vaccines between the ages of 6 and 16 weeks to keep him from getting sick. You will also need to bring your puppy back to the veterinarian for a yearly checkup. Remember to discuss with your veterinarian the best age to neuter or spay your puppy, as well. Finally, talk to your veterinarian about any signs of illness that you should watch out for during your puppy's first few months.

- He is not eating or drinking like he usually does, may be eating less
- Vomiting, not keeping any food down
- Limping on one leg, not putting weight on a leg
- Aggressively scratching and/or licking himself
- Loss of fur in patches

### **How can I teach my dog basic commands?**

Dogs learn better with one word commands, try these!

“Outside” (go to the bathroom) Take your dog into the backyard or on a leash to the designated area near your house and tell him “outside”. Repeat saying “go potty” or whatever phrase you want the dog to learn as going to the bathroom. Once the dog has done his business then say good boy and reward him with a treat. Never punish a dog for going in the house, dogs forget easily and aren't aware of what they did.

“Sit”(sit down)

Have the dog stand in front of you. Hold the treat above him and slowly move it back towards his bottom and say sharply and confidently “Sit”. Only when he sits do you give him a treat.

“Stay”(stay there)

Have the dog stand in front of you. Tell him to sit. Then keep holding your hand out while saying stay and until you say come. When you want him to come you put your hand down quickly and say come.

“Lay”(lay down)

Have your dog in front of you. Have him sit. Then lower the treat from his nose very slowly to the floor. Keep repeating this until he follows you and lays down, then give him the treat.

“Down”(get down)

When your dog is on the couch or jumped up on a guest say down! And point to where you want him to go, repeat until he understands and then give him a treat when he achieves the goal.

### **My dog is not behaving:**

- People often say they don't see their dog's true personality until several weeks after adoption. Your dog may be a bit uneasy at first as he gets to know you. Be patient and understanding while also keeping to the schedule you intend to maintain for feeding, walks, etc. This schedule will show your dog what is expected of him as well as what he can expect from you.
- After discussing it with your veterinarian to ensure your dog has all the necessary vaccines, you may wish to take your dog to group training classes or the dog park. Pay close attention to your dog's body language to be sure he's having a good time — and is not fearful or a dog park bully.
- To have a long and happy life together with your dog, stick to the original schedule you created, ensuring your dog always has the food, potty time and attention he needs. You'll be bonded in no time!
- If you encounter behavior issues you are unfamiliar with, ask your veterinarian for a trainer recommendation. Select a trainer who uses positive-reinforcement techniques to help you and your dog overcome these behavior obstacles.

### **If you are crate training:**

Introduce your dog to the crate or cage nicely by having the door open or taken off completely that way the dog can go in and out as he pleases. Do this for a long period of days before ever locking him inside, once your dog chooses that spot to sleep or play in you know that he is comfortable there. Never lock him in the crate as punishment, that teaches him that it's a bad place to go.

When locking your dog in the crate for the first time make it short, especially if he is a puppy and/or learning how to hold going to the bathroom till outside. Make the second time you leave your dog slightly longer and continue with that pattern. A dog should never be left in the crate for more than a few hours. If you are gone longer than that consider a room in the house your dog can have as his and lay down a puppy pad for him to go to the bathroom on. If you are gone a day or longer you need to ask a friend or boarding facility to watch your dog.