

## Starting Out on the Right Paw With Your Newly Adopted Dog!

Congratulations on adopting a new member of your household! Dogs are very social animals, even more so than human beings. Your new dog will thrive when you can provide a strong, yet benevolent parenting role, so you can teach what is expected of them! To help your new canine friend adapt to your home, we recommend you follow the following guidelines:

**PLEASE KEEP YOUR DOG ON LEASH NEAR ANY EXITS (CAR DOORS, FRONT DOORS, ETC). DOGS ARE VERY LIKEY TO RUN AWAY FROM HOME WITHIN THE FIRST WEEK IN A NEW PLACE.**

- 1. KEEP YOUR DOG UNDER CLOSE SUPERVISION WHEN LOOSE IN THE HOME.** An easy way to keep pooch under control is to let him drag his leash around. That way you can gently guide him away from unwanted situations. Another way is to put up baby gates or close doors to rooms which you want to restrict access to.
- 2. WHEN YOU CANNOT WATCH YOUR DOG, CONFINED HIM TO A SMALLER AREA.** Never leave your new dog alone free roaming in your home for the first 30 days. Instead, plan on keeping fido in a safe place when you are gone to prevent destructive behaviors from developing. A safe place could be a crate kept in the most used room of your home, or a confinement room like the kitchen or a bedroom. You could also use an ex-pen (exercise pen) that is portable, and can be placed in any room of the house. We do not recommend putting your dog outside or in the garage when you cannot watch him/her. That to a dog means punishment, and if he/she becomes stressed by isolation, they could develop bad habits such as: digging, getting into trash or boxes, developing escape behaviors, or barking and howling.
- 3. PRACTICE PUTTING YOUR DOG IN THE PLACE HE WILL STAY WHEN YOU ARE NOT HOME.** Do not spend so much time with your new dog that he/she becomes anxious when you start going back to work or school! Instead, from the first full day at home with him, practice putting your dog in it's crate or confinement area while you are still at home. Continue on with your daily business while your dog is in it's space. Start by leaving your dog alone for five minutes, several times a day. Gradually increase the time he/she is alone until you can safely leave them alone for two hours at a time. This is you preparing your dog for when you need to leave the house for extended periods of time.
- 4. TREAT YOUR DOG AS UNHOUSETRAINED.** Take your dog out every 2-4 hours a day during the first couple of weeks. Show your dog where to go potty by taking them out on leash to that location, then give them loads of praise and treats when he/she does eliminate! If fido does have an accident inside the house, do not yell, swat, or rub their nose in it. That will only teach them not to go potty in front of you. You can see our house training handout at [hssv.org](http://hssv.org) – under pet care - behavior and training – then dog behavior and training library.
- 5. MAKE SURE YOUR DOG EARNS ALL HIS PRIVILEGES.** Privileges for dogs could be eating, treats, petting, going out for a walk, playing, or even cuddle time! Do not allow your dog to demand these things from you by nudging you, jumping up on you, or barking at you. Instead, make him/her sit or have four feet on the floor, quietly, before giving them any attention. Remember to reward any behavior you want your dog to repeat, and ignore any behaviors you don't want them to. Nothing in life is free, not even for dogs! Adopted dogs greatly benefit from attending reward-based, force-free training classes. Please visit [hssv.org/training](http://hssv.org/training) to sign your dog up for training classes!

## DIARRHEA IN NEWLY ADOPTED DOGS

Sometimes, newly adopted dogs will develop a mild and short episode of diarrhea when they move in with their new families. It can be stressful for dogs to adjust to a new environment, family, and routine.

Stress induced diarrhea can be self-limiting and resolve once the dogs adjust to their new lifestyle. Keeping your new dog on the same diet they were eating while they were in our care while they are transitioning will help limit the bouts of diarrhea. All of our dogs and puppies eat Royal Canin dry kibble, along with Wellness wet food. If you would like to change their diet, we recommend waiting until they are no longer having diarrhea from the transition. Then slowly mixing in the new food you would like to feed with the current food day by day until your dog is no longer showing signs of an upset stomach. Most dogs should have stool quality improvement within two to three days after adjusting to their new lifestyle. You should notice that their activity level and appetite remains the same.

If your dog is having excessive diarrhea, you can help by adding some bland foods to their kibble. Mixing in cooked white rice, or cottage cheese with their kibble can help. Do this at a 25% ratio; 25% regular, to 75% bland. If their stool quality improves, increase the amount of kibble in with their food and reduce the portion of bland food by another 25%. Continue this until you are completely back to dry kibble. If stool quality deteriorates or worsens at any time, you may have to take a step backwards and move forward at a slower rate.

Diarrhea is not always due to stress. If your dog:

- Has had normal stool for at least 7-10 days after adoption, and then develops diarrhea and/or their appetite or activity level decreases
- This lasts more than 5-7 days
- Bland diet foods are not helping the stool quality

This could indicate that your dog could have a more serious medical condition and you should contact your veterinarian to schedule an examination.

Your adoption counselor will have provided you with all of the medical information on your dog that we have on record. All dogs adopted from HSSV have received:

- DA2PP vaccinations
- Rabies vaccination
- Deworming to prevent roundworms

While we routinely deworm for roundworms, there are several other types of parasites dogs can get infected with. If we had received a fecal exam result, and it was negative, there is still a possibility that your dog may be infected. We recommend doing a second fecal exam with your vet to verify that the parasite eggs were not missed with the first exam.

We strive to provide the best health care within our power and resources, although we hope you understand that because we are a non-profit organization, we may not have the resources to perform every test necessary to obtain a complete medical diagnosis. Animals who require specific veterinary treatments have received the best care we can provide to control any health conditions during their

stay here, and we will provide as much information as we can to aid our adopters in providing excellent health care for their new kitty in the future. Although some of the pet adopted from HSSV may not have exhibited signs of health problems while they were here, you and your vet may discover a new health problem after the adoption. It is the responsibility of the new family to provide veterinary care for any health concerns that were not present at the time of adoption.

Our medical clinic can provide vaccination services for the rest of your kitty's life. But you will need to establish a relationship with your own vet to provide full health care, annual check-ups, and any urgent medical needs. View the attached handout to see the Veterinary Offices HSSV recommends!