

Congratulations on your new DOG from Cheatham Co Animal Control!

Your dog's "CCAC" name _____ Adoption Date _____

Approximate Date of birth _____ Weight _____

Fixed? Yes / No Scheduled _____

Vaccinated for Rabies? Yes (date) _____ No - Needs rabies vaccine within 72 hours of adoption

Your dog is HW positive / HW negative Test date: _____

Dogs need Flea/Tick/Heartworm prevention year round! You must get heartworm prevention from your vet. Due : _____

Your dog DOES / DOES NOT have a microchip. Company/see attached _____

CCAC STRONGLY advises you to take your dog to YOUR vet for an exam within 1 week of adoption. Please see the attached sheet with full vaccination history at CCAC and share with your vet.

INTRODUCING A DOG TO A NEW HOME: The first 3 weeks are a period of huge adjustment. Be patient. Do not give the dog too many freedoms or privileges at once. This can lead to behavior problems.

Dog Crate: Teach your dog to use a crate as a place for sleep, rest, and safety. Use a sheet or blanket to partly cover it on 3 sides, so it feels cozy like a den. You can reward a dog for going in a crate by offering a treat. Never use a crate to punish a dog. When you leave, it is best to use the crate to avoid destructive behaviors in the house.

Diet: CCAC uses Purina. You can continue Purina or transition to another brand by mixing in your brand of choice. Pick one correct for the dog's age. Read the bag for correct amount based on your dog's weight.

Sleeping: Your dogs will be happy to sleep in a dog bed or a crate or a blanket on the floor. No bed/couch privileges for at least three weeks. They can earn that privilege if all is well in three weeks.

The yard: New dogs are a major flight risk. They do not know the area, they are stressed, and they may run off and won't know how to get home. Monitor them in a fenced in yard as they may dig, jump or find holes. Walk them on a leash to help them acclimate. Do not let them outside unattended.

Dog parks: No dog parks for AT LEAST one month. Many dogs do not want or need a dog park, so please consider your dog's needs. Dogs CANNOT go to a dog park if they have not been fully vaccinated.

Identification: Microchipping is best! This can be done by your vet, and Tractor Supply has microchip days. If your dog already has a microchip, use the information provided by CCAC to change over to your name. Please get a name collar tag with your number. That makes it easy for finders to contact you.

Traveling: Do not place animals unrestrained or tied in the back of a truck. Do not leave windows down such that a dog could jump out.

Collars: Dogs leave CCAC with a martingale collar. It is great for leash walking. It is NOT for tethering, as it will get too tight and could choke the dog. If you are given a Good Dog Collar, you will be taught how to use it, and it is only to be used on leash walks.

House training/Marking: All dogs need time to understand their new home and where they are supposed to do their business. Take dogs outside often, and praise them for going outside. Ring a bell at the door each time. Establish a routine, use the same door, and watch them closely for signs such as sniffing or standing by the door. If marking is an issue, NEUTERING does help. BELLY BANDS can be purchased at pet stores or amazon. Use sprays that eliminate pet odors such as Nature's Miracle to clean. NEVER rub their face in poop or pee, as they will not understand what you are trying to communicate.

Problem Behaviors: NEVER hit a dog. DO NOT use a crate as a punishment. Always try to prevent a problem behavior by monitoring a situation. Reward good behavior! Do not tease a dog with treats or toys or encourage them to jump for food. Seek help from a trainer or call the shelter.

Introducing PUPPIES to a new home: MOST puppies are not fully vaccinated, meaning they are at risk for diseases such as Parvo and Distemper. Therefore puppies need to stay where other dogs have not been, preferably in a fenced in back yard. Talk to your vet about when they can go in public spaces, typically 2 weeks after the third round of vaccinations. Puppies should only socialize with vaccinated dogs until fully vaccinated. Puppies under 6 months should meet new dogs carefully to ensure no negative experiences.

Introducing DOGS to other DOGS: It takes at least 2 weeks for dogs to develop a trusting relationship. Go slow. They do not need to be together 24/7, and crating for periods of the day gives them a break. Take away all sources of conflict: Feed in separate rooms. Provide ample water for them to access during the day. No high value treats or toys to fight over. Give out your affection equally and often separately. Take them on leash walks together to build trust. Do not leave them alone unattended for at least a month until you feel confident in their relationship. If there is a fight, DO NOT grab a fighting dog by the collar, you will get bitten. Grab them by the leash or hind legs.

Introducing DOGS to CATS: Some dogs are more inclined to chase cats than others. Many dogs simply need to learn that a cat is a family member. Start by crating the dog and let him watch you handle the cat so he can see it is not prey. Then allow the dog to visit the cat while you are holding it. When introducing, have the dog on leash, and make sure the cat has escape options. A baby gate with a cat door can be helpful. Do NOT just let a dog and cat loose together. It can take weeks to months for dogs and cats to work it out.

Introducing DOGS to new people: Dogs are under a lot of stress, and they are very insecure when they are first adopted. It is strongly advised that you do not have gatherings for at least a month. A new person should ignore the dog and let the dog decide if he/she wants to interact. Have new people turn to the side, and advise them not to stare at the dog. A dog can smell people from far away so don't put your hand out for a sniff. That makes some dogs nervous. And never put fingers through a crate.

DOGS and children: All dogs and children need to be supervised. Dogs can be energetic and playful, and even well meaning dogs can cause injury by their play. Children need to respect dogs body and their space. Teach your children to be respectful. Do not tease with treats or toys and don't throw treats in the air, or you will teach the dog to jump. If your child is nervous/jumpy, dogs will often mirror that energy. So try to teach your children good dog skills by staying calm and respectful.

PROBLEMS: If you are having issues keeping your dog, please contact the shelter. We will always take back any dog, and we will work hard to find a suitable home. We can also suggest resources for training. If you are having trouble affording food, we can help. Let us know if you need help. 615-792-3647.