



# **Dog Parenting Handbook**



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# Congratulations!

You have taken the first step in adding a new member to your family. This handbook will help guide you on your journey of dog parenting. Even if you are already a seasoned dog parent, you still may learn a thing or two!

In this handbook, we will go over preparation, integration, behavior, health and safety, and provide you with other resources that may be helpful for you

It's important to remember that this guide is for general informational and educational purposes only. It is not a substitute for professional advice.



# PREPARATION

- Make sure everyone is on board with the new family member and make sure each person is committed to their individual responsibilities
- If you have children, make sure they know to approach dogs slowly and calmly. Even the friendliest dogs need space and downtime - it's important children know not to disturb them while eating or sleeping. Set expectations around interactions and boundaries.
- "Working Class Breeds" such as Huskies, German Shepherds, Australian Cattle Dogs, and American Pitbull Terriers to name a few -were created to have specific jobs. These breeds may become destructive or anxious if they are not given enough mental enrichment and physical exercise. Do your research and make sure the dog you are adopting is right for your lifestyle.
- Find a veterinarian close by for annual checkups, vaccines, and preventatives.
- Locate the closest 24 hour emergency animal hospital and display their contact information where everyone can see it, like on the refrigerator.
- Try to gather as much information about your new dog as possible. Find out which shots he or she has gotten and if they have had any preventatives recently. Knowing their history will help you better understand and prepare for them.

## Supplies

### **Pet**

Collar and/or harness, pet ID tag, leash, food, toys (puzzle toys, snuffle mat, Kong, flirt pole, licking mat), treats, and chews

### **Grooming**

Toothbrush, dog friendly toothpaste, brush, nail clippers, shampoo, ear cleaner

### **Health**

Flea & tick preventative, heartworm preventative, dewormer, vaccines

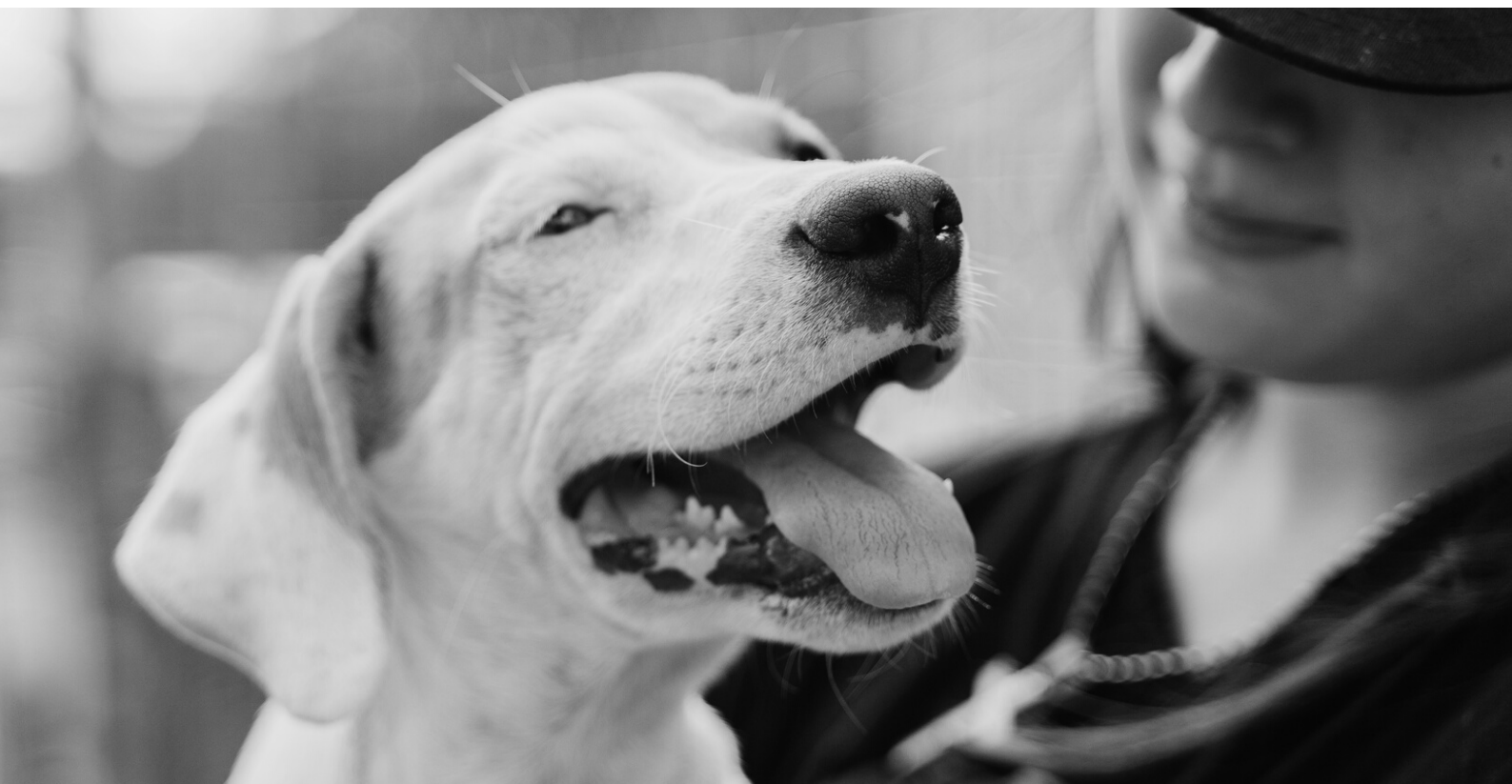
### **Home**

Laundry detergent, Dawn dish soap, disinfectant spray, stain and odor remover, crate, dog bed, food dish, water dish, pet waste pickup bags, pet gate

### **Miscellaneous**

Potty pads, supplements (calming, hip & joint), seat belt/harness for car rides, travel crate

# INTEGRATION



For the first couple weeks, you should keep your new dog as separate as possible from other pets. A new home (and new dog) can be very overwhelming for everyone and you want to provide adequate time for decompression.

Dogs straight from the shelter or from the streets may also be carrying diseases that are contagious to other pets. For this reason, it is important that existing pets be up to date on vaccines and ideally are kept separate for 14 days.

If you are unable to keep completely separated for the first couple weeks, make sure each pet has its own "safe space" - like a crate - where it can retreat from the other pet. You should monitor all interactions closely, feed separately, and remove any high-value treats, toys, or beds that may cause a dispute.

# Decompression Period

## 3 Days



- Feeling overwhelmed
- May be scared and unsure of what is going on
- Not comfortable enough to be "himself"
- May not want to eat or drink
- Shut down and want to curl up in his crate or hide under the table
- Testing the boundaries
- May be unsure of where to potty, prone to accidents

## 3 Weeks

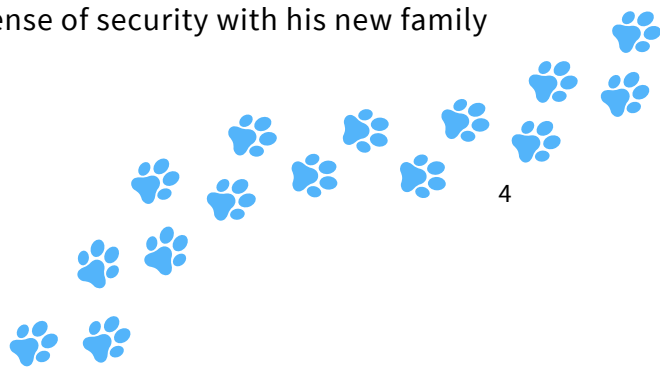


- Feeling more comfortable
- Realizing this could possibly be his forever home
- Figured out his environment
- Getting into a routine
- Lets his guard down and may start showing his true personality
- Behavior issues may start showing up

## 3 Months

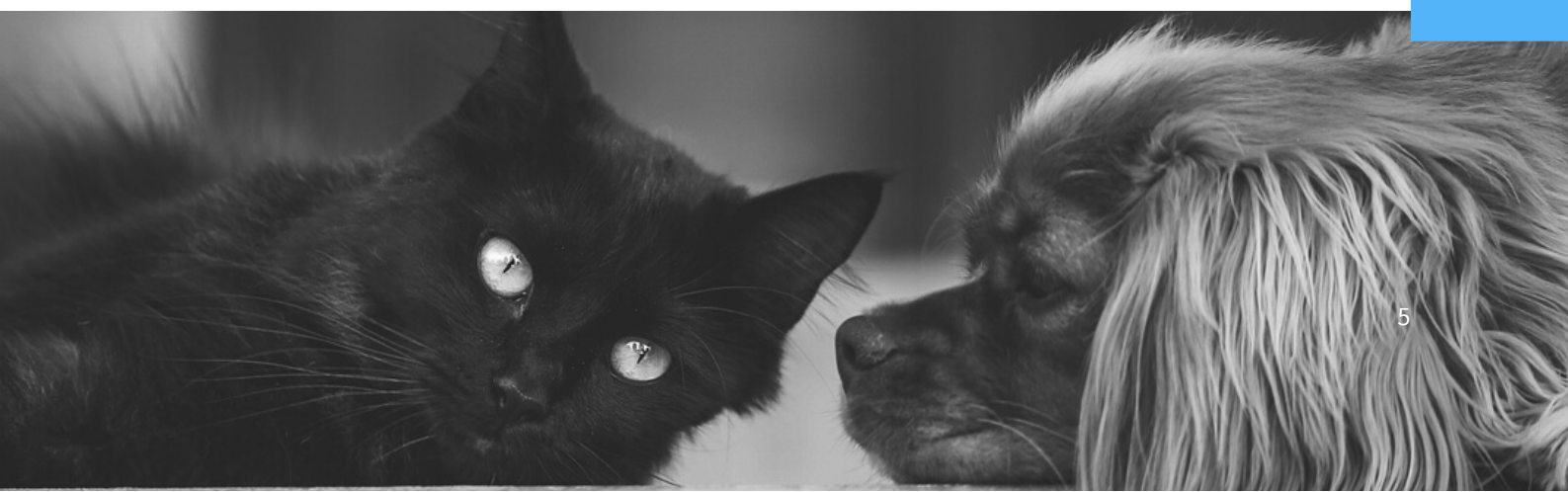


- Finally completely comfortable in his home
- Building trust and a true bond
- Gained complete sense of security with his new family
- Set in a routine



# Introducing Your New Dog to Cats

1. Make sure both pets are up to date on vaccines and healthy, a quarantine period of 14 days is recommended prior to beginning the introduction process.
2. Rotate the pets over a series of days, allowing each one to roam individually in a common area while the other one is secured in another room. Providing mentally stimulating toys while secured will help keep them relaxed. By having them take turns smelling the other pet, they will begin to acclimate to each other's presence in the home.
3. After days of rotation, introduce your pets, providing as much space between them as possible in the process while keeping them restrained.
4. Maintain your dog's focus through treats and cues like "sit" and "stay." If your dog is showing signs of being overstimulated and distracted, that is an indication to increase the space between them and possibly even pause and continue the following day. Your dog must understand that to maintain the relationship it requires them being calm. If your dog doesn't make progress, consider guidance from a professional dog trainer or veterinarian.
5. As your dog and cat gain more freedom in their interactions, make sure your cat has vertical places to retreat from your dog. All interactions should be supervised and interrupted if either one is showing signs of fear, aggression, or stress.



# Introducing Your New Dog to Existing Dogs in Your Home

**\*After your new dog has completed the 14 day quarantine\***



**Introduce if:** body is relaxed and tail is in a low wag position

**Wait to introduce if:** overly aroused, stiff body, tucked or high tail

If dogs are indicating they are not ready to be introduced, take them for a walk. Each dog should have a separate handler and the walk should begin with each dog on separate sides of the sidewalk with the road between them. As they begin to relax, the two handlers can gradually bring the dogs closer. Walking together builds a pack bond.

Even if the dogs get along great, each dog should still have its "safe space" where it can decompress and get some alone time. Continue to feed separately and be mindful of any indications of resource guarding - remove any high value toys, treats, or sleeping items from shared spaces to avoid any disputes.



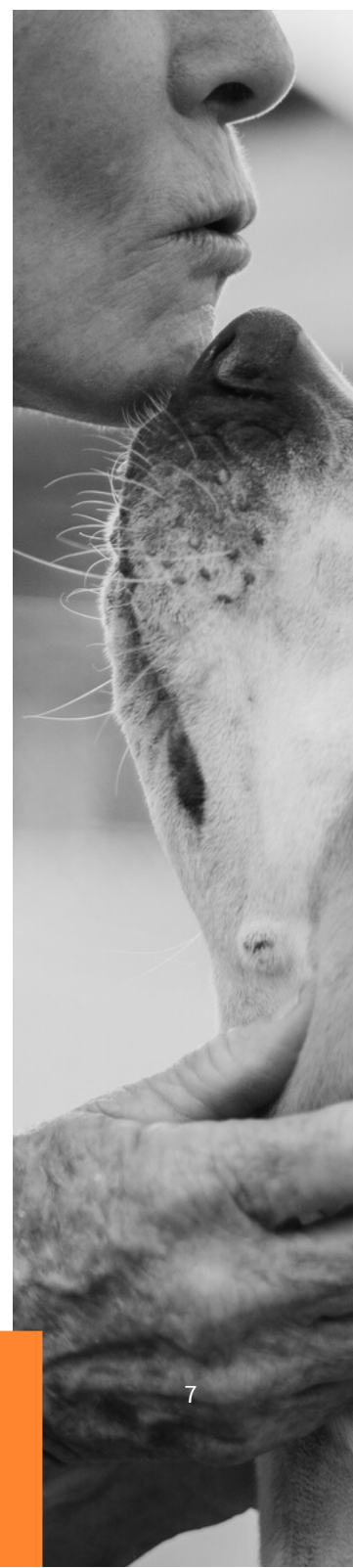
# BEHAVIOR

Dog behavior is very complex and there are still some aspects of it that we do not understand. Puppies can be difficult to manage but often times major behavioral issues arise during adolescence, which usually occurs between 6-12 months and ends between 18-24 months. This is comparable to when a person goes through their "teenage" years of puberty.

Adolescent dogs become larger, stronger, push boundaries, and still may be teething and destructive. This is usually when behavioral issues like reactivity and aggression surface. Because of this, this age is typically when dogs are surrendered to the shelters, because their owners feel that they are too much to handle. Having a great trainer to work with you and explore options is key as you navigate that time. If you and your dog are able to get through the adolescent period, you can get through anything together! You will have a loyal companion for years to come.

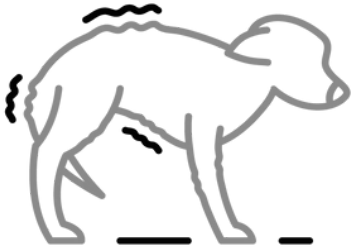
When looking for a trainer, be aware that there are different types of training that exist. Do your research, read reviews, and pick the trainer that best aligns with your values and you and your dog's needs.

Dogs do best with structure, so creating a routine is important and will help establish expectations.



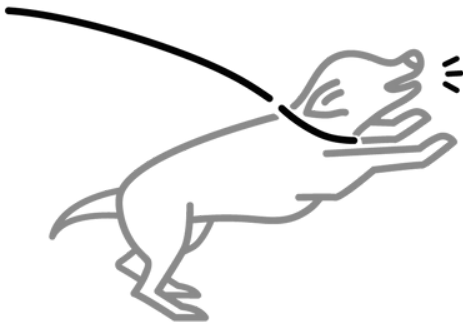
# Body Language Basics

## Fearful



- Covered/crouched posture with weight shifted back
- Tucked tail between rear legs
- Ears pinned back
- Shaking or trembling
- Avoiding eye contact
- Lip-licking

## Aggressive



- Stiff posture
- Raised hackles
- Tail raised and stiff
- Whale eyes
- Ears pinned back
- Snarling with lips curled back and teeth showing
- Growling, barking, and/or snapping, and in extreme cases, lunging or biting

## Friendly



- Loose and wiggly body posture
- Tail wagging softly
- Relaxed expression with mouth slightly open
- Eyes softened or squinty
- Ears set neutrally
- Leaning towards or on you

# Enrichment



If your dog is barking or being excessively destructive, it may be a sign they need more enrichment. Enrichment reduces stress, increases problem-solving skills, and leads to a more confident and balanced dog. Some of the recommended enrichment items are puzzle toys, snuffle mat, Kong, lick mat, and flirt pole.

Exercising your dog by walking them at least twice a day, allowing for them to sniff and have new experiences - and providing enrichment like toys and puzzles can help make them less destructive and more relaxed.

# Crate Training

## **What is crate training? How long does it typically take?**

The process of crate training can give dogs a safe space where they can feel secure. Because dogs are naturally den animals, they often enjoy having a space of their own safe place to relax in with minimal stimulation, especially in a busy home. In addition to the mental and emotional benefits of crates, crate training can also be a great tool for housetraining and management, which can help to ensure that they are successful.

Crate training is a delicate process that may work differently for every dog, and there is no set timeline. Your dog may not immediately fall in love with their new crate, so follow your dog's cues and gradually introduce them to it prior to any prolonged time within the crate. You can start by sitting by the crate with your dog comfortably inside and do an activity that doesn't involve you paying too much attention to them, such as reading a book or watching TV. Try moving farther away from the crate while your dog can still see you, and then you can try leaving the room for short durations, starting with 2-3 minutes, building from there, returning and repeating. Always reward calm and relaxed behavior and body language. This gradual process can help condition your dog to feel comfortable spending time in the crate alone while knowing you will always come back.

Pet parents should never use the crate as a consequence for their behavior and/or force a dog to be in the crate for longer than they can handle. It should always be a space where dogs can go to feel safe and secure. One thing to remember is that crates are not for all dogs – I recommend working with a certified trainer to help identify what training solutions work best for your individual dog.

## **Why use a crate when training a puppy?**

Your dog's crate is a great tool for house-training and keeping them safe while you are unable to supervise them, such as when you are away or sleeping. Crates can also help support dogs' mental health by providing a space to retreat when they need to decompress. You can teach your puppy to seek out their crate if they are feeling overwhelmed by diffusing these situations and using the cues you've taught them to enter their crate voluntarily.

When housetraining a puppy, crate and house training should start as soon as possible, though they likely won't be developed enough physically to control their bladder until they are at least four months old.

## **Can you crate train an older dog?**

Crate training can be useful no matter your pet's life stage. Regardless of age, many pets can benefit from the mental health benefits of providing a safe, calm space away from external stimulation.

## **When choosing a crate, what are some things to consider?**

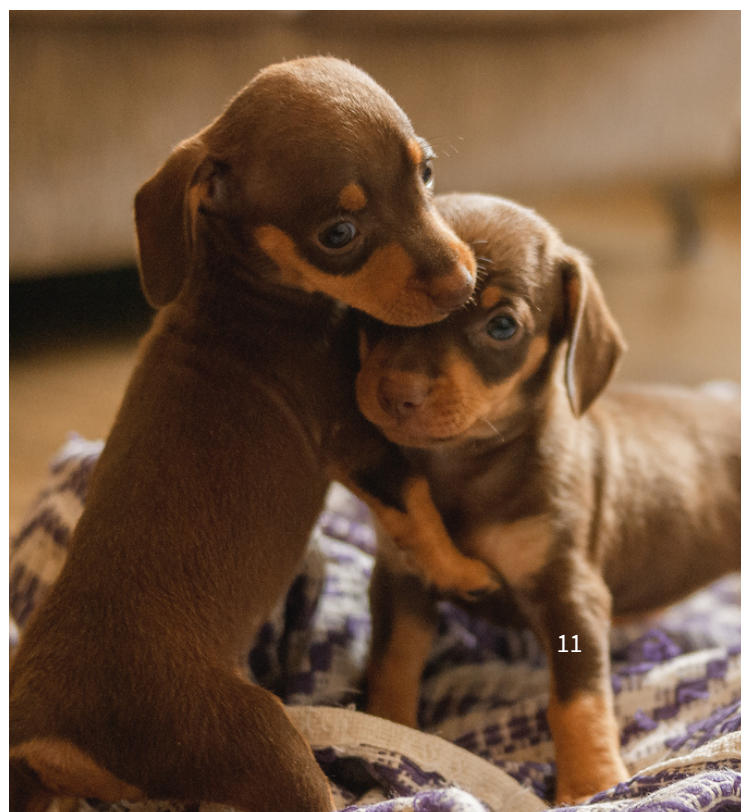
Crates should have enough room for your dog to stand up, turn around, stretch out and lie down. Any more space than that may encourage your pet to sleep on one side of their crate and relieve themselves on the other, which defeats the purpose of using your crate as a housetraining tool. As a general rule, you can measure their length and height and add four inches to each measurement. However, if you have a puppy you can opt for a crate that he or she can grow into instead of choosing a crate that suits your puppy's current size. If choosing a larger crate for your dog to grow into, make sure it comes with movable crate dividers to provide the right amount of space as your puppy grows. You can also limit their crate size by placing a pet safe box (something they won't chew up) on one side until your pup grows into it.

# Potty Training

As mentioned previously, your new dog may be prone to accidents when he first arrives. Be patient with him. Never scold your puppy for having an accident, just quickly relocate them to where you want them to potty. Puppies are most likely to potty after eating, drinking, after 10 minutes of play or vigorous activity, and after waking up from naptime.

1. Take your puppy out at least once every 30 minutes. When you take them out, take them out on a leash so that they stay focused and get used to the leash.
2. Standing still in one spot, give your puppy 5 minutes to go potty. By remaining still, your puppy will get bored and switch his focus to doing his business.
3. As soon as the puppy is done pottying, praise them and give them a treat. Make sure you wait until they are completely done to reward them.
4. After the puppy potties and they have had their praise and reward, give the puppy something that they find reinforcing. This creates a positive association.

PLEASE NOTE THAT IT IS A STANDARD PRECAUTION FOR PUPPIES TO HAVE AT LEAST TWO ROUNDS OF DHPP VACCINES BEFORE THEY HAVE "PAWS ON THE GROUND" TO PREVENT THEM FROM GETTING SICK WITH CANINE PARVOVIRUS.



# HEALTH & SAFETY



If you haven't already, locate the nearest veterinarian and emergency animal hospital and make their information known and visible for the household.

Please note that if you intend to keep a collar on your dog at all times, it should have a quick-release mechanism to prevent it from locking and potentially strangling your dog. When walking your dog, refrain from using collars with the quick-release mechanism because it will release and pop off if tension is applied. Additionally, dogs should be tethered or crated when traveling in a vehicle, walked with a leash, and kept secured by an enclosure when off-leash.

Dogs are a long-term commitment, and they require you, as a dog parent, to look after their wellbeing. This means providing vet care as needed, proper hygiene, and keeping them safe from bad weather, traffic, and accidents.

# Spay and Neuter

## Spaying

To spay a female dog is to surgically sterilize her by having a veterinarian remove her ovaries, fallopian tubes, and uterus while under anesthesia. This will make her unable to reproduce, eliminate her heat cycle, and sometimes can relieve her of breeding instinct-related behavior. By having your female dog sterilized, you are doing your part in preventing the birth of unwanted puppies, helping protect your dog against cancer and other diseases, and may reduce many behavioral issues that come with a mating instinct.

## Neutering

To neuter a male dog is to surgically sterilize him by removing his testicles by a veterinarian while under anesthesia. Male dogs that are not neutered can develop diseases of the prostate and testicular cancer. Neutering your dog can sometimes decrease certain undesirable behaviors like aggression, marking, and roaming and therefore reduce his risk of being injured in fights or car accidents.

Talk to your veterinarian about any concerns or questions you may have about spay and neuter. You also may be eligible for free/low cost spay and neuter, please research the options available in your area.

# Microchipping

## What is a microchip?

A microchip is a device that is roughly the size of a grain of rice that gets injected under the skin of your pet and carries a unique identification number. When the microchip is scanned by a vet or shelter, it transmits your pet's ID number. If you have registered your pet's microchip then the company you registered with will contact you, provided that all of your contact information is up to date and you can be reunited with your companion animal!

## Why microchip your pets?

Lost pets with a microchip have a higher chance of returning home once scanned at a veterinarian's office or shelter. Registered microchips give a lost pet the best chance of getting back home. Pets without microchips may never be reunited with their family. Microchips last a lifetime, and unlike collars and tags, they can't fall off.

## How does the microchip get inserted?

Microchips are injected into the scruff, or the fatty area between the shoulders of your pet. A needle is used to implant the microchip, and no surgery or anesthesia is required. It is a very quick process, similar to a pet receiving a routine vaccination.


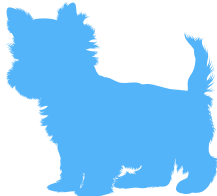


## Where can I get my pet microchipped?

Most shelters and veterinary clinics provide microchipping services.





# Food Calculator

| Dog Weight | Cups per day                |  |
|------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 3lbs       | 1/3 cup<br>130 calories     |     |
| 6lbs       | 1/2 cup<br>210 calories     |  |
| 10lbs      | 3/4 cup<br>275 calories     |    |
| 15lbs      | 1 cup<br>400 calories       |  |
| 20lbs      | 1 1/3 cups<br>490 calories  |  |
| 30lbs      | 1 3/4 cups<br>685 calories  |  |
| 40lbs      | 2 1/4 cups<br>824 calories  |  |
| 50lbs      | 2 2/3 cups<br>992 calories  |  |
| 60lbs      | 3 cups<br>1122 calories     |  |
| 70lbs      | 3 1/2 cups<br>1272 calories |  |
| 80lbs      | 3 3/4 cups<br>1392 calories |  |
| 90lbs      | 4 1/4 cups<br>1531 calories |  |
| 100lbs     | 4 1/2 cups<br>1642 calories |  |

These recommendations are for guidance only. Dogs are individuals and some may have higher or lower caloric requirements in order to maintain an ideal body condition.

# Protecting Your Dog from Toxins



On the following pages, we have attached an extensive list of poisonous/safe substances for your dog. Please note, these are general guidelines only and are not all-inclusive. Every dog is different and may have different sensitivities, so it's best to try new foods in small amounts first.

If you think your dog has been exposed to poison, please contact the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC). They are available 24 hours day, 365 days a year. Their number is (888) 426-4435, a consultation fee may apply.

In addition to contacting their hotline, you should also contact your veterinarian and/or an emergency animal hospital to seek treatment as necessary.

# Substances\*

## Toxic Substances

Alcohol, avocado, coffee, chocolate, caffeine, citrus, coconut/coconut oil, macadamia nuts, grapes/raisins, dairy, nuts, onions, garlic, chives, raw/undercooked meat, bones, eggs, salt, snacks/junk food/candy, xylitol, yeast dough, fruit pits and seeds, raw potatoes, rhubarb, moldy food

## Safe Substances

Apples, bananas, blueberries, cantaloupe, carrots, green beans, cooked eggs, honey, kiwi, mango, oatmeal, unseasoned and cooked chicken, peaches, peanut butter (no xylitol), pears, cooked potatoes and yams, pumpkin rice



\*This is not an exhaustive list of substances that are safe or toxic for dogs. If you are unsure, don't allow your dog to ingest the substance or contact your veterinarian for guidance. Additionally, like humans, dogs may have sensitivities to certain substances that are normally considered safe. Be mindful of introducing new foods and substances to your dog and your home.

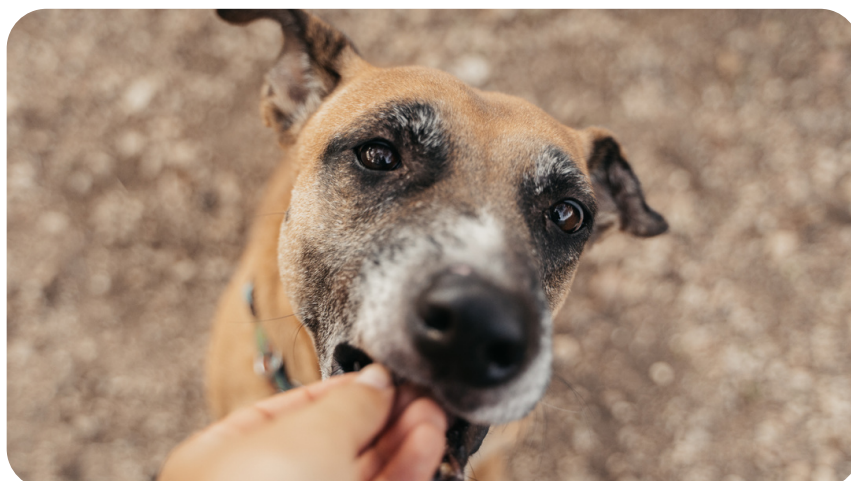
# Plants\*

## Toxic and Poisonous Plants

Daffodil, Castor Bean, Easter Lily, Sago Palm, Star Gazer Lily, Tiger Lily, Cyclamen, Azalea, Aloe, Begonia, Bird of Paradise, Bougainvillea, Calla Lily, Carnation, Chrysanthemum, Coleus, Cosmos, Dumb Cane, Elephant Ear, Fleabane, Gardenia, Geranium, Hibiscus, Hydrangea, Iris, Mother-in-Law Tongue, Pansy, Peace Lily, Pinks (dianthus), Plumbago, Poinsettia, Primrose

## Pet-Friendly Plants

Alyssum, Blue Daisy, Boston Fern, Bottlebrush Tree, Camelia, Canna, Ceolsia Plumosa, Christmas Cactus, Coreopsis, Exchevaria Succulents, Gerber Daisy, Gloxinia, Impatiens, Marigold, Nasturtium, Pampas Grass, Persian Violet, Petunia, Polkadot Plant/Baby Tears, Rose, Snap Dragons, Spider Plant, Star Jasmine, Sunflower, Sword Fern, Viola, Zinnia



\*This is not an exhaustive list of plants that are safe or toxic for dogs. If you are unsure, don't allow your dog to ingest the plant or contact your veterinarian for guidance. Additionally, like humans, dogs may have sensitivities to certain plants that are normally considered safe. Be mindful of introducing new plants to your dog and your home.

# Disease & Prevention

**Roundworms, tapeworms, hookworms, and whip worms** are all intestinal worms. If a dog or puppy has a pot-bellied appearance, is experiencing diarrhea, anemia, and/or bloody stools, they may have worms. A pill or liquid dewormer is often used to kill these types of worms.

**Heartworms** are a parasitic worm that is transmitted by infected mosquitoes. Once a dog is infected, heartworms grow and multiply within the heart and can cause severe organ damage and ultimately death if left untreated. Hundreds of worms can live in a single dog for up to seven years. Heartworm prevention medications can be used to decrease the risk of your dog getting infected by heartworms.

**Canine Distemper Virus** is a very contagious and sometimes fatal disease - puppies have a mortality rate of 80% and adult dogs have a mortality rate of 50%. Most dogs and puppies get exposed to distemper from another infected animal through airborne exposure, but it can also be spread through the placenta and direct contact. Distemper affects many parts of the dog's body, such as the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and neurological systems. According to a study published by the National Library of Medicine, distemper vaccines were 90% effective in preventing distemper.

**Canine Parvovirus** can affect all dogs and is highly contagious, but unvaccinated puppies less than 4 months old are the most at risk. With proper treatment, survival rates are close to 60% in Texas. The virus can survive in the exposed environment for years, and will contaminate almost any surface it comes into contact with. Lethargy, bloating, fever, vomiting, high or low body temperature, and/or severe and bloody diarrhea can all be signs of parvovirus infection. Vaccination and good sanitary practices are important in the prevention of parvovirus.

**Rabies** is an incurable, viral disease that attacks the brain and spinal cord of all mammals. Once infected, rabies has a nearly 100% mortality rate. The rabies virus is secreted in saliva, so it is often spread through a bite wound from an infected animal. Rabies is 100% preventable through vaccination.

# Vaccines

## 2022 AAHA Core and Noncore Vaccines for Dogs\*

| CORE VACCINES: Recommended for all dogs irrespective of lifestyle, unless there is a specific medical reason not to vaccinate. |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| ANTIGEN  | INITIAL VACCINATION  |  | REVACCINATION  |
|  | Dogs ≤16 Weeks of Age  | Dogs >16 Weeks of Age                              |  |
| <b>Distemper</b><br><b>Adenovirus</b><br><b>Parvovirus</b><br><b>+/- Parainfluenza</b>   | At least 3 doses of a combination vaccine between 6 and 16 weeks, 2-4 weeks apart. | 2 doses of a combination vaccine, 2-4 weeks apart. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A single dose of a combination vaccine within 1 year following the last dose in the initial vaccination series.</li> <li>• Administer subsequent boosters at intervals of 3 years.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Rabies</b>  | As required by law.  |  |  |

| NONCORE VACCINES: Recommended for some dogs based on lifestyle, geographic location, and risk of exposure. |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| ANTIGEN  | INITIAL VACCINATION   |  | REVACCINATION  |
|  | Dogs ≤16 Weeks of Age   | Dogs >16 Weeks of Age                                |  |
| <b>Leptospira</b><br>(killed) 4-serovar  | Two doses, 2-4 weeks apart, starting at 12 weeks of age.  | Two doses, 2-4 weeks apart, regardless of dog's age. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A single dose within 1 year following the last dose in the initial vaccination series.</li> <li>• Administer subsequent boosters annually.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Borrelia burgdorferi</b><br>(canine Lyme disease)   | Two doses, 2-4 weeks apart.   | Two doses, 2-4 weeks apart, regardless of dog's age. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A single dose within 1 year following the last dose in the initial vaccination series.</li> <li>• Administer subsequent boosters annually.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Bordetella bronchiseptica &amp; canine parainfluenza virus</b>  | A single (IN) dose is indicated for dogs at risk of exposure.   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administer subsequent boosters annually.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Bordetella bronchiseptica only</b>  | Parenteral (SQ): Two doses, 2-4 weeks apart.<br>IN: Administer a single dose intranasally.<br>Oral: Administer a single dose into the buccal pouch. |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administer subsequent boosters annually.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Canine influenza virus-H3N8/H3N2</b>  | Two doses, 2-4 weeks apart.   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A single dose within 1 year following the last dose in the initial vaccination series.</li> <li>• Administer subsequent boosters annually.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Crotalus atrox</b><br>(Western diamondback rattlesnake)   | Dosing requirements and frequency of administration vary among dogs depending on body weight and exposure risk.                                     |  |  |

| OVERDUE VACCINES AND UNKNOWN VACCINE HISTORY |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Core and Noncore Vaccines</b>             | The benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risks in cases of dogs with unknown immune status or vaccination history. In cases of overdue vaccinations, consult specific vaccine manufacturers for instructions. A good rule of thumb is: When in doubt, vaccinate. |
| <b>Rabies</b>                                | Follow local laws and consult the state veterinarian as needed.  |

IN, intranasal; SQ, subcutaneous.

\*For dogs in shelter environments, see narrative for additional recommendations.

The 2022 AAHA Canine Vaccination Guidelines are available at [aaha.org/canine-vaccinations](http://aaha.org/canine-vaccinations).

These guidelines were prepared by a Task Force of experts convened by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and were subjected to a formal peer-review process. This document is intended as a guideline only, not an AAHA standard of care. These guidelines and recommendations should not be construed as dictating an exclusive protocol, course of treatment, or procedure. Variations in practice may be warranted based on the needs of the individual patient, resources, and limitations unique to each individual practice setting. ©2022 AAHA.

# Weather

## The Safe Outdoor Dogs Act

The Safe Outdoor Dogs Act is a statewide law governing the restraint of dogs outdoors that went into effect on January 18, 2022.

**The Act makes it a criminal offense to leave a dog outside and unattended by use of restraint (chain, rope, tether, leash, cable, or other device that attaches a dog to a stationary object or trolley system) unless the dog has access to:**

- Adequate shelter; shelter that protects the dog from inclement weather and is large enough to allow the dog to stand erect, sit, turn around, and lie down in a normal position. Inclement weather includes rain, hail, sleet, snow, high winds, extreme low temperatures, or extreme high temperatures.
- An area that allows the dog to avoid standing water and exposure to excessive animal waste;
- Shade from direct sunlight; and
- Potable (clean, for drinking) water

**You cannot use a restraint that:**

- is a chain;
- has weights attached;
- Is shorter than the greater of five times the length of the dog (tip of nose to base of tail); or
- 10 feet; or
- is attached to a collar (a band of material specifically designed to be placed around the neck of the dog) or a harness (a set of straps constructed of nylon, leather, or similar material, specifically designed to restrain or control a dog) that is not properly fitted (not appropriately sized for the dog based on the dog's size and weight; chokes the dog or impedes the dog's normal breathing or swallowing; and/or causes pain or injury to the dog)

**There are some exceptions, the following are the main ones:**

- Restraint at public camping or recreational area - in compliance with requirements of the public camping or recreational area;
- Restraint while herding livestock, or assisting with farming tasks;
- Restraint while hunting or field training; and
- Temporary restraint in an unattended, stationary, and open-air truck bed

If it's too cold for you outside, it's probably too cold for your dog or puppy. When left outside, they can freeze, become confused, get lost, stolen, injured or killed. During hot weather, never leave your pet in a hot vehicle, as the internal temperature can reach over 100 degrees in minutes. Limit exercise during temperatures above 70°F to reduce the risk of heat stroke. When the air temperature reaches above 77°F, the temperature of asphalt reaches 125°F which can burn your dogs paws. During the warmer months, it's best to walk your dog early in the morning or in the evening once the sun goes down.



# Fireworks

## Dog Stress Signals

Cowering, howling, lip-licking, hiding, yawning, pacing, restlessness, seizing, incontinence, snapping, drooling, scratching, panting, shedding, whale eyes, whining, barking, destructiveness, avoidance, tucked tail

## Safety Precautions

- Keep your home secured and completely closed
- Make sure your dog has an updated tag and microchip
- Walk your dog before or after the fireworks, not during
- If driving, keep your dog restrained in a crate



## Calming Techniques

- Don't leave your dog unattended
- Create a cozy space for them to hide
- Turn on calming music or television
- Distract with toys, treats, and interaction
- Help them feel secure with a Thundershirt
- Try calming chews and/or a pheromone diffuser



\*If these techniques don't work, please reach out to your vet to see if a sedative would help your dog be more relaxed\*



# If You Lose Your Dog:

- Conduct a thorough search of your property and your neighborhood
- Make sure their microchip information is up to date and report your pet lost to the microchip manufacturer
- Ask your neighbors if they have seen your missing dog
- Post your missing dog on Nextdoor, Facebook (Lost Dogs of Texas), Petco Love Lost, and Pawboost
- Post flyers in your neighborhood, grocery stores, veterinary offices, pet supply stores, and dog parks with your dog's description, photo, and your contact information
- Check the surrounding shelters in your area
- Place an ad in your local newspaper and check Craigslist
- Leave a dog bed and blanket on your doorstep in case your dog finds it's way home
- If you or others see your dog, do not chase it. Chasing it may encourage it to run away from you. If needed, hire a professional trapper to help you secure your dog safely



# Conclusion

Your new dog relies on you to provide it with the care and attention it needs to live a long, healthy life. This handbook serves as a general guideline, but it is up to you to create a support system consisting of veterinarians, groomers, dog sitters/walkers, and trainers to help meet all of your dog's needs. Facebook groups are also a great way to connect with others who may be in your area, have similar breeds, and/or share the same interests.

We highly recommend becoming familiar with and utilizing additional support for vaccines, food, and spay and neuter services that may be available in your area.

If seeking additional guidance, the shelter or rescue from which you adopted should help you navigate any hardships you may encounter.

Thank you for adopting and saving a life!

