



Your New Dog



Pet Rescue & Resource Center
operated by Hinsdale Humane
Society
21 Salt Creek Lane
Hinsdale, IL 60521
(630) 323-5630
www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org

Congratulations!

Thank you for adopting a companion animal from Hinsdale Humane Society!

This booklet is designed to address many of the questions you may have about how to care for your new dog. Please call us at **630.323.5630** if you need any additional information or advice.

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Getting Prepared:

Preparing Your Home:

- Prepare a safe room or gated area where your new pet can be left alone.
- Set up s crate/exercise pen.
- Clear the area of anything that may cause harm or be damaged: Shoes, papers, electrical/computer wires, children's toys and belongings, etc.
- Remove/secure trash cans.
- Keep cat litter boxes/food out of reach.
- Ensure fence/gate is secure and yard is free of sharp objects/poisonous plants.

The Ride Home:

- If you have a current dog, keep them separated while in the car.
- Leave the leash attached to the dog's collar (it can be fastened through the seatbelt if your dog is not crated).
- Do not allow children to excite the dog.
- Take the dog directly home. Don't stop on the way for supplies or to visit friends.
- If the dog vomits, simply clean up without punishing the dog.
- Do not leave the dog alone in your car.
- Have control of the leash before opening the car door all the way so the dog cannot bolt.

When You Arrive Home:

- Take your dog immediately to the area you want her to go potty. Do not play or interact until she has relieved herself. Praise/reward for going outdoors.
- Take your dog inside and show where food/water will be kept.
- Keep the leash on the dog for control.
- Act very low-key and don't excite the dog with play.
- Watch the new dog carefully. If the dog attempts to urinate indoors, do not yell or punish, but quickly go outdoors, then praise for using the correct area.
- Keep doors closed to any rooms/areas the dog is not allowed.
- A calm, consistent first few days with minimal visitors and excitement will help your dog settle in, bond with family, and experience minimal stress.

Supplies:

Food: Speak with your vet about a high-quality diet that will meet your pet's needs.

Dishes: Ceramic or stainless steel are recommended. They are easier to clean and are less likely to be chewed than plastic.

Bed: Offer a soft, clean and dry place for your dog to relax and sleep.

Toys: Providing physical and mental exercise is important for your dog's overall well-being. Be sure to choose toys, games, and puzzles that are appropriate for your dog's size and chewing capacity.

Grooming Supplies: Brushes, nail trimmers, combs, and shampoos should be chosen based on your dog's size and coat.

Collar/Leash: A collar to which ID tags can be attached should be worn at all times.* For walking, a 6 foot leather or nylon leash to attach to the collar or front-clasp harness.

*see page 3 for types of collars

Types of Collars:

It seems as if there are as many different kinds of collars as there are different kinds of dogs--and choosing the right collar can be intimidating! With all collars, proper fit is of vital importance. Here is a brief explanation of the different types of collars and their uses.



Buckle Collars: These are pretty much what they sound like, collars that are fastened with a buckle. They are typically made of nylon, cotton, or leather, and are either flat or rolled. Buckle collars are adjustable, but do not tighten on the dog's neck once fastened. Rolled leather collars avoid the chaffing or hair breakage that flat collars sometimes cause.



Quick-Release Collars: These are basically flat nylon buckle collars, with a plastic closure that makes getting the collar on and off a little quicker (similar to some luggage strap fasteners). These collars are also adjustable, and do not tighten once fastened.



No-Slip Collars: These collars are a combination of slip collars and quick-release collars. They are adjustable collars designed to tighten around a dog's neck, but to stop tightening before they actually constrict around the neck. They are good for dogs that tend to "slip" their collars. Some varieties are called "Martingale" or "Greyhound" collars.



Head Halters: Head halters (Gentle Leaders, Halti, Promise, etc.) are commonly used for dogs that pull. They are designed to mimic a halter used on horses. Head halters are not muzzles--the dog can still drink, eat, bark, and bite while wearing a head halter.



Harnesses: Some people use harnesses in an attempt to stop their dogs from pulling when on lead. The best option for a harness is a front clasp harness which allows the handler to control the dog from the front. Popular brands are Easy Walk, Halti, or Freedom No-Pull. Even if the dog is still able to pull, the chest will be redirected around, toward the handler.

What NOT to use:

Retractable Leashes: While a retractable leash may give an owner a sense of allowing freedom for their pet, the reality is that loss of leash control and breakage are common, as well as injury, including leash burns and even digit amputation.

Pinch/Prong Collars & Choke Chains: These are the common names of the metal training collars. Studies show that choke chains cause a great deal of neck, back, and tracheal injuries to dogs. Their use has also been linked to thyroid damage in dogs. While the prong collar is actually far safer than the choker when used correctly, studies evaluating its use found no neck/back/tracheal injuries as a result of correct use of this collar--*its use has been known to increase aggressive responses a dog may exhibit to other dogs, bikers, joggers, children, etc.*

Electronic (shock) collars: (also used with electronic fencing) are strictly used for training and should never be used without a professional's guidance.

These collars work through force, pain, and intimidation. If improperly used, these collars can cause serious injury and /or destroy a dog's self confidence, desire to work, and general good will.

Setting Everyone Up for Success:

Do:

- Spend the first few days/weeks showing your dog what to do, where to go potty, where to find food, water, and a bed.
- Praise your dog whenever it is being good.
- Wait for good/calm behaviors before giving attention, food, walks, etc. (He may not know commands, so wait and then reward).
- Keep your new dog on a leash at all times (except when alone, crated, or overnight) for the first few days to help aid in moving off the furniture, away from the kitchen, off of visitors, etc.
- When feeding, wait for calm behavior before putting food down, then move away and do not disturb while eating.
- Closely supervise every interaction with children or other pets.
- Use a crate or quiet dog-proofed room for calm confinement and overnight. Allow treats/toys in the crate and do not use it for punishment.
- Sign up for positive reinforcement training classes as soon as possible. HHS offers many different dog training classes. Find our class info here:
www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org/programs/training-enrichment

Don't:

- Don't yell at or use punishment of any kind. This will teach your dog not to trust you. It is always best to ignore and/or properly manage bad behaviors and reward good ones.
- Don't wrestle or play tug-of-war with your dog until you know his demeanor and he knows the rules.
- Don't give long-lasting, high-value food items until you know the dog will allow safe handling.
- Don't allow too much freedom too soon. Keep him on a leash at first (even in the house and especially around children or other pets).
- Don't bathe or groom the dog right away and do not try to trim nails.
- Don't overwhelm the dog with too many new people in the first week or two.
- Don't take him to the dog park (even if he seems good with other dogs).
- Don't physically force your dog to do anything. Use your leash, treats, and a soft, encouraging voice to lure him to where you need to go.
- Don't let kids crowd the dog, take him for a walk, hug or pick up the dog, and NEVER allow unsupervised interactions.
- Don't overwhelm your new dog by going to crowded places such as markets, parks, schools, etc.

Safe Introductions:

To the Resident Dog:

You are off to a good start if the dogs met already at our shelter, but before you go inside, take a short walk with your dogs (NOT to the dog park) to help reduce stress. Arguments often occur when entering territory, going through doors or gates, in tight spaces around food, toys, beds, games, and over your attention. Fights can be avoided by giving the dogs time and space to get to know each other calmly. Keep the leash on the new dog and control his movements. Do not give either dog attention until both are quiet and well-behaved. It can help to increase praise to your current dog whenever the new dog approaches.

IMPORTANT: Do not feed the dogs next to each other. Refrain from giving either dog a bone or long-lasting food treat, as this can easily lead to fighting. Wait until they are accustomed to each other (a few weeks). Remember that food guarding is a normal dog behavior and there are some dogs that may never be able to eat together.

If you are worried at any point, pick up the leash and walk the new dog away. It may help to spray the dogs with water if they start to fight. Do not grab either dog, as you may get bitten by a snake.

Avoid playing high arousal games with the dogs. Tug-of-war or a fast game of fetch may cause a fight to break out as they are both energized. Do not expect the dogs to share the same bed. It may be wise to crate your new dog until a relationship is established and you know she is potty trained. Eventually it would be ideal to have both dogs, with a dog bed each, sleeping in the same room (your bedroom, as they love to be near you). Separate the dogs when you are not home until they have proven that they can get along.

To the Family Cat:

Be prepared before the dog comes home. Make sure the dog does not have access to the cat's food and water and especially the litter box! Bring your new dog into the house on a leash. If they both seem calm, allow them to sniff each other and then distract the dog with a treat or praise. After a few meetings, if all has gone well, you can drop the end of the leash and let him drag the leash around around the house so you can grab it if necessary. It is normal for the cat to hiss and growl at first, especially if she has not lived with a dog before. Cats take time to adjust to changes. Never allow the dog to chase the cat, even in play, as this situation can easily get out of control and become habit.

If the initial interaction isn't good then keep a distance between them to allow time for adjustment. Distract the dog with treats and reward calm behavior. You can try spraying them with water if they start to fight, or throw a towel over the cat if he attacks the dog. Make sure the cat has an escape route or can leap to a high place. Do not let the dog chase or corner the cat or vice versa. Separate them when you are not there to supervise until you all are comfortable with the situation.

If your cat hides, don't worry. Make sure the cat has a private place (not accessible to the dog) where she can eat and drink in peace and feel safe. Ensure that the cat has access to her litter box, but that the dog does not. Allow the pets to adjust in their own time--be patient and act calm and relaxed. Often they become friends, but sometimes they just tolerate each other. Either way you should respect the arrangement.

Dogs & Kids:

All interactions between dogs & children should be carefully supervised

Many puppies and dogs think of children as littermates because children have higher pitched voices, get easily excited, run and fling their arms about, and are closer to the dog's size. All of these behaviors signify "Play Time" for a dog or puppy and they become excited and overactive. The puppy/dog interacts in play with the children, just as it would with other dogs/puppies. They nip, jump up, bang into, knock over, and wrestle with the clothes of children. Also, toddlers and very young children are not capable of handling dogs with proper gentleness. They want to hug and squeeze the dog and are often too rough despite their sweet intentions.

If the dog is getting too excited, teach the children to stand still "like a tree;" fold arms and hide hands, then walk away slowly and calmly.

Teach your children how to appropriately interact with dogs:

- Allow the dog to approach you, not the other way around!
- Pet the dog under the chin or chest.
- Don't look directly into the dog's eyes.
- NEVER approach or touch a strange dog.
- Never disturb a dog who is eating, chewing, or sleeping.
- Do not allow children to climb on the dog, hug tightly, pull the tail, or grab feet.
- Keep your children's faces away from the dog's face.

Look for these warning signs that a dog is anxious:

- The dog is standing stiffly.
- He is looking sideways at the child.
- He is trying to get away or hide.
- His tail is tucked.
- He emits a low, deep growl.
- He is staring at your child in the eye, with a raised lip.

Most Importantly:

- Never run from a dog; their natural instinct will be to chase.
- If a dog does run up to you, freeze with your arms folded by your sides. Once the dog loses interest, walk away slowly.
- Don't scold a dog for growling--this is his way of communicating and should be listened to.

RESPECT YOUR DOG--and encourage others to do the same. A dog will respond in kind.

Your new pet is your friend and companion. Forcibly moving him, hitting him, or pinning him down will lead to problems. The dog may see you as a threat, as someone to fear, and may shut off from you or become aggressive. Your pet should welcome your touch and not be afraid of you.

Get into a Groove!

Routine & Structure with Your New Dog

The whole family should use the same positive training methods for your new pet. Your new dog will be looking to you for clear guidance and gentle leadership to shape his good behavior. Be consistent and patient. As with people, dogs develop new behaviors and change with age. You should be prepared to continue your dog's training and guidance throughout his life. Teach and train with patience and rewards. The results will be amazing!

- Provide clear rules and guidelines. There is never a need to physically reprimand your pet. Time outs, ending the game, and removing rewards are suitable punishment for a dog that is learning what the boundaries are. Make sure the boundary line doesn't keep moving or your dog will become very confused. Please take a training class.
- Go slowly. Remember that your new dog doesn't know the rules or the people and things around him. Introduce new surroundings and routines gradually.
- Feed on a regular schedule and teach your dog to sit and stay before giving him his dinner. Don't disturb him while eating.
- Don't let your new dog sleep on your bed (he can do this at a later date as long as he will cheerfully on your cue). Other great sleeping options are having a dog bed placed next to your bed or a crate in your bedroom.
- Catch your dog being good (lying on his bed, chewing his OWN toys, sitting for attention, etc.) and reward with affection, attention, and treats when he is polite or does what you ask.
- Initially give your dog a confined amount of space in the home--free run of the entire house can be overwhelming! Restrict access until you establish some training and get to know your new pet better.

A tired dog is a good dog! Dogs need to use their brains as well as their muscles, so if you don't have time to regularly play with and walk your dog, consider multiple treat dispensing puzzle toys (like a Kong) for meals and alone time and/or a dog walker or doggie daycare to provide some companionship during a long day.

Crate Training:

Crates are actually an excellent choice for most puppies and adult dogs as they keep the pet and your belongings safe when you are not able to supervise. They aid in house training because a dog will not want to soil his sleeping area. Select a crate big enough to allow the puppy/dog to stand up and turn around and stretch out when lying down.

Why Use a Crate?

- To provide a den for your dog.
- To help calm and nurture your dog in the new environment.
- As a house training aid.
- As a recovery room from illness or surgery.
- As a sanctuary when things get hectic.
- In some mild cases, it can be helpful for anxiety to help prevent destructive chewing.
- To protect your pet from children who cannot act appropriately around dogs.

Crate Dos and Don'ts:

Do:

- Make the crate a positive place.
- Use treats and toys to lead the dog into the crate.
- Feed the dog his dinner in the crate at first.
- Leave the door open initially.
- Hide four treats in the crate.
- Place a clean, soft bed in the crate.
- Place a shirt with your scent in the crate.
- Encourage your dog to sleep in the crate.
- Praise and pet him when he is inside his crate.
- Stay close when you first close the crate door.
- Teach your dog to wait before coming out.

Don't:

- Force a dog or puppy into a crate.
- Use the crate for punishment.
- Keep the crate in an isolated area.
- Leave your dog in his crate for more than six hours.
- Talk to or let him out while whining.
- Choose a crate that is too large. If your dog can eliminate in one corner and sleep in another, the crate will not help teach good potty habits.
- Choose a crate that is too small. Your dog should be able to sit up and turn around. For a growing puppy you may wish to choose a larger crate and initially block off part of the space. As the dog gets larger, you can remove the partition.

Remember, the crate should never take away from the contact and socialization that your dog needs from you and your family. The dog needs to spend much more time out of the crate than in.

House Training:

Adult Dogs:

Your new adult dog may already be potty trained, but she may be anxious and is certainly unfamiliar in her new home and not at all aware of what you want; so expect some accidents at first.

Take the dog outside to eliminate when you first arrive home, first thing in the morning, before confinement (if you go out), immediately after confinement, after his dinner, just before you go to bed, and any time he signals a need to go.

If your dog, no matter what age, continues to eliminate in the house when you are at home, attach a leash to the dog's collar and tie it to your waist. This way you can watch your dog and take him outside when he begins to show signs of needing to eliminate.

Submissive & Excitement Urination:

Less confident dogs sometimes urinate to show submission or in excitement to greet you.

- Just ignore your dog, do not make eye contact or lean over to pet him.
- Try to distract the dog with another activity such as catching a treat or going to get a toy.
- Building confidence by practicing basic manners and agility games may help.
- As your dog's confidence grows, the problem should lessen and eventually stop.
- Instruct guests to ignore the dog on arrival and to praise him verbally when he sits, lies down, etc.

Methods that DO NOT work:

- Hitting your dog
- Pushing the dog's nose in his accidents
- Shouting

These methods lead to your dog being more worried, making the urination worse.

Puppies:

A good rule of thumb is puppies can control their bladders for approximately one hour of time for each month of their age. In other words, a three-month-old puppy cannot be expected to last more than three hours without relieving himself and typically they need to defecate 10-20 minutes after eating.

Consistency and routine are key. If you can be at home with your puppy, take him out, on-leash, to eliminate every two hours, after every nap, and before confinement or any time he signals (circling, sniffing). Take him to the same area of the yard each time. Give him a word to associate with the action such as "potty". Do not play with or interact with him until he goes and immediately praise him for eliminating outside. If he does not eliminate after a few minutes take him back inside and confine him for 15 minutes, then take him out again. Repeat this until he goes.

DO NOT rub his nose in any errors as this does not teach proper elimination habits or control.

- Use a crate
- Have the crate next to your bed and during the night, when the puppy whines, take him outside, wait 2 minutes and when he eliminates, praise him.
- Always keep his crate spotlessly clean; this will encourage him to do the same.
- DO NOT punish your puppy for eliminating on the floor. This teaches the puppy nothing except to hide when he has to go out!

When you are home, be diligent about taking him outside to eliminate and use lots of praise.

REMEMBER: **Be patient.** Young puppies have limited control of their bladders and short memories. Some learn more quickly than others.

Building a Relationship through Training:

Understanding your dog's behavior, body language, and learning how dogs think will make life with your new pet happier and easier. Positive reinforcement, also known as reward-based training, is proven to be far more effective in creating a well-adjusted, well-mannered dog than punishment-focused methods.

HHS recommends all new dogs/puppies and their family members attend at least a basic training course to build a strong human-animal bond and to help him understand how to communicate effectively with you.

HHS offers training classes for you and your dog, including basic and more advanced courses. In addition to classes, HHS trainers offer private 1 on 1 training sessions to address more specific behavioral concerns. For more information or to sign up for training classes, visit: www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org/programs/training-enrichment

Please reach out to training@hinsdalehumanesociety.org if you have any further questions or concerns.

Training Inappropriate Behaviors:

There are very few “bad dogs” in the world, but there are a lot of dogs who don’t understand what humans expect of them. Dogs are dogs after all, and many perform a number of regular “dog behaviors” as a way to seek out your attention or keep themselves occupied. Teaching your dog appropriate behaviors in a calm, fair manner will go a long way toward building a bond of trust and companionship for years to come. Rather than yell, scold, or punish, teach them what you want them to do instead. Here are a few tips for common dog behaviors:

Jumping Up:

This is merely an inappropriate greeting behavior, as your dog is excited to see you.

Solution:

- Ignore the dog, stand still, fold your arms, and look away. The second your dog’s feet remain on the floor, acknowledge and greet her. If she jumps up again, immediately stand still, fold arms, and look away. Repeat every time the dog jumps. NOTE: your family and friends should all follow this training plan as it needs to be consistent!
- Teach your dog to sit to be greeted and reward quickly before she jumps. If she jumps, repeat the above.
- Keep her on a leash, so you can prevent her from jumping on guests.

Digging:

Usually dogs dig because they are bored or left outside for too long. However, digging is a normal activity for dogs and many of them really enjoy it.

Solution:

- Control digging by spending more time with your dog, giving him plenty of exercise, keeping him indoors, and providing him with toys.
- Direct the behavior by designating an area in the yard where it is acceptable for your dog to dig. Encourage him to use this area. You can buy him a sandbox where he is allowed to dig.
- You can also try covering the spot with dirt and securing chicken wire on top, or placing the dog’s feces in the spot where he likes to dig.

Chewing:

Chewing is a normal and necessary behavior to promote healthy teeth and gums. All dogs should have their own chew toys. Avoid cooked bones, poultry bones, and rib bones as they tend to splinter and cause choking or intestinal problems. It is recommended that you supervise your dog when he has a chew toy/bone.

Solution:

- Show your dog the appropriate chew toy and make a big fuss over it. Praise your dog when he takes the toy. Sometimes smearing a little peanut butter or cream cheese on the toy can make it more appealing.
- Avoid toys with squeakies or pieces that can be swallowed.
- If your dog tries to chew on inappropriate items, distract him, and give him an appropriate toy. Praise him and play with him briefly when he chews his toy.
- Teach your dog to “drop it” and “leave it” so you can exchange an unsuitable chewy for a more appropriate one.
- Prepare your home by putting away items you value; the dog doesn’t know the difference between your things and his toys.
- Prepare a puppy-proof room or crate so he doesn’t have access to unsuitable chew items when you can’t supervise him.
- Try to avoid “bitter sprays” or pepper flakes as they can become an “acquired taste” and are not teaching your dog what an appropriate behavior is.

Always remember to reward good behavior!

Training Inappropriate Behaviors (Cont'd):

Barking:

Dogs bark to alert you of danger, because they are lonely, bored, anxious, seeking attention, or because they are being teased by an outside influence (i.e. squirrels).

Solution:

- Keep your dog inside your home when you are not there.
- Leave on the radio or TV to mask outside noises.
- Ignore your dog if he is barking for attention.
- Consistently reward the silent pauses with your attention. Your dog will learn that he is not rewarded for barking and hopefully will stop.

Please call us for help if your dog appears anxious or stressed or if the barking does not subside.

Bolting Through Doors/Gates:

Bolting can be a very serious problem that may show up at your home in the first few days before your new dog realizes she lives with you!

Solution:

- In the beginning, put your new dog on leash before opening the door, even if you are only going into your fenced yard. This extra control will teach and guide your dog to be calm and learn boundaries.
- Teach your dog to "wait" at every door or gate until you release her to go through. Going to training class is a great way to learn how.

If she escapes, don't run directly after her as this can often be seen as a game, and she probably run away faster! Instead, try turning around, calling her name happily, and running away at an angle and the dog may turn around and chase you safely home. If your dog approaches you, try crouching down and offering a cookie to lure the dog to you. Talk in a "happy" voice to attract your dog.

Remember, some breeds are more likely to roam than others; research the breed before adopting the dog.

Home-Along Anxiety:

Usually within 30 minutes of the owner departing, the dog attempts to get out to find his owner. Tremendous damage can be done to door frames, drapes, furniture, etc. Dogs can injure themselves in their panic. Putting a dog in a crate can increase the anxiety, and they can break their teeth and rip out their nails in the frantic effort to get out. Food is rarely a distraction. Most dogs will be too frantic to even notice treats. The dog may also urinate and defecate because of his anxiety.

The dog is not being willfully destructive or laicious. Punishing the dog does no good as it only confuses your already anxious and distraught pet. Usually the dog is extremely affectionate, calm, and loving when in the presence of his owner. The attachment formed is very strong, so much so that the dog feels intense panic when the owner leaves, feeling unable to cope with being left alone.

What can you do?

Please consult your vet for a diagnosis and for more information on this problem. Treating your dog with medication may be necessary to take the edge off his anxiety and enable you to implement a behavior modification training program.

If the anxiety is mild, please consult us at 630-323-5630 as an HHS trainer may be able to suggest other things to help you and your new dog.

Your Dog's Health:

We highly recommend that you bring your new dog to the veterinarian of your choosing within one week for an overall health exam. Puppies and kittens may require further vaccinations as they mature. You should receive your dog's rabies vaccine/certificate within 2-4 weeks of adoption. While at the Hinsdale Humane Society, the dog you adopted received the following preventative health care procedures:

DA2PP: This is a standard vaccine administered to dogs. It provides protection against canine distemper, adenovirus, parvovirus, and parainfluenza. Pups and some dogs need additional boosters of this vaccine administered by your vet over a period of weeks to achieve maximum immunity from diseases. Until these are completed, it is best to limit exposure to other dogs. Many serious dog illnesses are spread by fecal matter from other dogs--so properly dispose of waste and avoid areas of elimination used by other dogs. Parvovirus is an especially contagious and often fatal disease which primarily affects puppies, so any dog under one year of age without sufficient vaccine boosters should not be taken to public parks or outdoor areas, even sidewalks, until he has received a full series of DA2PP vaccine. Your veterinarian will work with you to determine a booster schedule and may recommend additional vaccines based on your dog's age and lifestyle.

BORDETELLA: Commonly known as kennel cough, bordetella, or canine tracheobronchitis, is an upper respiratory illness spread in facilities with lots of other dogs. All animal shelters are familiar with this disease and most protect all incoming dogs by administering a bordetella vaccine. However, the dogs often come in contact with the bacteria before the vaccine takes full effect, so often dogs leaving the shelter will develop an illness with cold-like symptoms. Other dogs can catch this cold, so limit contact with other dogs until you have observed your dog for symptoms for a week or longer. Should symptoms develop, keep him quiet, entice him to eat and get plenty of rest. Your veterinarian may prescribe antibiotics to prevent him from developing a secondary infection. Canine infectious tracheobronchitis is most often characterized by a frequent dry cough which is aggravated by pressure from pulling on the leash or strenuous activity. Most dogs seem to be minimally affected by the illness and continue to behave normally, eat, and play. Lethargy, reluctance to eat, or white or yellow nasal discharge could be signs that the kennel cough has progressed into a more serious respiratory infection or even pneumonia, so see your veterinarian right away if you notice these symptoms.

Your Dog's Health (Cont'd):

FLEA/PARASITE CONTROL: Many products exist that protect your dog from fleas and parasites. If you travel with your dog, you will want to protect him from illnesses spread by fleas and ticks in other parts of the country. Your veterinarian has a wide range of high quality flea control products which are safer and more effective than over-the-counter flea products.

HEARTWORM: The Hinsdale Humane Society routinely tests for heartworm disease. The disease, spread by the bite of an infected mosquito, can be fatal if not treated. We recommend all dogs over 6 months old receive a heartworm test and monthly preventative after adoption. Your veterinarian will be able to provide you with more information about testing and prevention. If you adopted a dog that is known to currently have heartworm, HHS will treat the heartworm, free of charge, after adoption.

MICROCHIP: Your pet has been microchipped. HHS registers your basic information with Michelson Found Animals Registry at www.found.org. Look out for a welcome email from Michelson - you'll use it to log into your new account and verify your contact information. Make sure to check your spam folder!

SPAYING/NEUTERING: If your cat or kitten was altered recently, be sure to monitor the surgery site carefully for signs of swelling, redness, or discharge, and contact your veterinarian with any questions or concerns.

GROOMING: Certain dog breeds require professional grooming. Grooming is not merely for looks; it allows for freedom of movement and allows the skin to breathe. Neglecting this type of care can constitute neglect and can cause suffering. Nail trims can be provided by HHS for a \$15 donation.

IMPORTANT: Decompression Time

Decompression Time:



The Rule of
3-3-3

3 DAYS

Everything is new and overwhelming to your pet. They may not act like themselves. Some may test boundaries and some may hide. It is important to give them 3 days to decompress.

3 WEEKS

Your pet should be learning the routines, all of the players, and the schedule. Giving them 3 weeks to adjust helps them feel that this new home is safe. They take time to settle in.

3 MONTHS

Everything should have settled down for your pet. They have learned the routine and the constant presence of love and trust. 3 months is the estimated time it takes for new pets to get adjusted to you and their new life.

Please give your new family member the gift of time to adjust to life in your home!

Conclusion:

When the match isn't right...

Sometimes a relationship is not successful. If keeping your companion animal becomes impossible, please notify Hinsdale Humane Society of plans for placement or make an appointment at 630-323-5630 to return the animal to the shelter.

Animals in our lives provide a blessing and an opportunity to share the world with another species. It is a responsibility to take seriously.

“Working through” behavior and medical issues will deepen your relationship with your animals and provide a valuable lesson to children and adults that the bond is indeed one that will endure tough times and last for the lifetime of your pet.

“Getting rid” of an animal because it does not meet expectations, has not been taught good manners, or needs expensive medical care is a poor example of animal ownership.

All of us at the Hinsdale Humane Society want to be sure you made the right pet choice and to keep the loving bond for the lifetime of the pet. Please call us at **630-323-5630** with any questions you may have. We are happy to assist!

The Hinsdale Humane Society is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to the care and adoption of homeless animals.

We advocate education and public service to encourage the compassionate treatment of animals and to prevent their suffering and neglect.

We are a voice for companion animals who are dependent on people for their care and believe they are entitled to our respect and protection.



Celebrating pets and the people who love them.

**21 Salt Creek Lane
Hinsdale, IL 60521
630-323-5630**

www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org