

Things To Remember - About you're newly adopted DOG

Veterinary Care Needed

- Distemper booster (DHLPP): Puppies need a series of 3 and adults once annually.
Number of boosters needed _____ Due: _____
- Rabies vaccination: First two (2) shots are given one (1) year apart, then every three (3) years.
Due: _____
- Roundworm: Puppies can get roundworms, an intestinal parasite, from their mother and must be wormed several times to eliminate the reproductive cycle. The treatment is routine.
Due: _____
- Heartworm Blood Test: Transmitted via the bite of a mosquito. See your vet for preventative medication.
- Sterilization: Please keep your dog confined until sterilized.
Due: _____
- Other: _____

Health Matters

- ➔ TAPEWORMS: Transmitted to your dog when an infected flea is ingested. Segments (like white rice) can be seen in your dogs stools or on bedding. See your vet for medication. Over the counter products are **not** recommended.
- ➔ EAR MITES: Small parasites that are evidenced by a dark waxy discharge from the ears, by head shaking, and/or ear scratching.
- ➔ FLEAS: Almost a year round problem. Flea comb your dog regularly. Use Program, spray, or mousse if the problem is severe. Flea collars are **not** recommended. They are highly toxic and usually do not break-away. Also, treat your indoor and outdoor environment.
- ➔ POISONS: Household and garden products can be toxic. Keep **Poison Control phone number** handy: **1-800-523-2222**. Poisonous items include chocolate, human medication, gardening products and antifreeze.
- ➔ TICKS: Prevalent in the rainy season. Spray your dog before outing into woodlands and grasslands. Remove with tweezers or an agent that will cause the tick to withdraw. Wear gloves to avoid possible exposure to Lyme disease.
- ➔ FOX TAILS: Can lodge/migrate into your dog's throat, eyes, ears, nose, and paws causing internal abscesses. Examine you pet carefully whenever he spends time in dry grasses. If fox tails are suspected, get to your vet immediately. Avoid playing and hiking in fox tail areas.

- ➔ **GROOMING:** Brush your dog regularly. Bathe him when he's dirty or has a "doggie" odor. Keep his ears and eyes clean and his toenails trimmed. Ask your vet about dental care.
- ➔ **DIET:** Feed good quality kibble that is high in meat and grain protein. Avoid foods that use soy protein, sugars and food colorings, feed treats in moderation, puppies should be fed at least three times daily. Adult dogs can be fed one or two times a day. Always provide plenty of fresh water.

Helping Your Dog Adjust to Your Home

Spend plenty of TIME with your dog. Be patient. Set a **regular schedule** for exercise, play, feeding, and sleep...dogs need routine. **Be consistent:** set rules and firmly stick to them.

Children should be supervised when with your dog. Teach the dog and the children how to behave gently around each other. Be sure the children leave your dog alone when he is eating, sleeping, and going to the bathroom.

Other pets should be introduced very carefully. Set up a controlled, supervised, neutral environment. If you have a resident cat, keep the dog on a leash and under control until he can be trusted with the cat. The cat should have an area of escape. Supervise carefully when they finally meet face-to-face.

Training and Behavior

- ➔ **HOUSEBREAKING:** Watch your dog closely. If he starts to go to the bathroom in the house, whisk him outside, and praise him for going in the right place. Never punish for mistakes, and do not correct him after the fact. Puppies must be taken outside frequently: after sleeping, playing, and feeding. Crate training is highly recommended.
- ➔ **PACK LEADER:** Establish yourself as the pack leader. Be firm and consistent with your dog so that he sees you as being in charge. Training will be much easier if your dog thinks you are BOSS!
- ➔ **ISOLATION:** Do not relegate your dog to the backyard if he becomes unruly or destructive. Give him plenty of play and exercise time, and then teach him to behave quietly when he is in the house. Isolating a dog only leads to more behavior problems such as escaping the yard and barking.
- ➔ **THE TEENAGE DOG:** Dogs are most difficult to train when they are teenagers...about 5 months to 2 years of age. They rebel and test your limits. **DON'T GIVE IN OR GIVE UP!!** Take your dog to training classes where you'll have the support of your trainer and other dog owners.

ORDINANCES

- ➔ **LEASH/CONTROL LAWS:** Know what control laws apply to your city. Dogs cannot run at large in the County of Merced.
- ➔ **LICENSING:** Required for all dogs in the county over 4 months of age. Proof of current rabies shot is needed.
- ➔ **PICK-UPS:** Dogs must be cross-tied in pick-up beds or other open vehicles. Violation is a

misdemeanor.

- ➡ **HOT CARS:** Dogs cannot be left in hot cars. The dog will be removed and the owner can be charged with a misdemeanor.

ADOPTION AGREEMENT

You will be signing a legally binding contract in which you promise to comply with all animal control and protection laws. If you do not do so, your dog can be taken from you. You will also be agreeing to return your dog to us if for any reason you are unable to keep it.

GOOD LUCK! Enjoy your new companion and call us if you need any help.

THANK YOU FOR COMING TO THE MERCED COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER TO ADOPT YOUR DOG!!!