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Special thanks to East Bay SPCA for allowing us to use parts of their adoption information in our packet.

RESPONSIBLE PET CARE

Congratulations on adopting your new companion! We know he or she will bring you much joy. At the Humane Society for Boone County we believe that all pets deserve responsible homes.

What is responsible pet care?

- Ensuring that you take responsibility for your companion animal's well-being by providing:
 - a nutritious diet and clean water.
 - training for your dog, so your pet may be a responsible canine citizen.
 - on-going, preventative and acute medical care.
 - safe, covered, warm and comfortable surroundings.
 - appropriate exercise.
- Always considering what is in your animal's best interest, as well as your own.
- Complying with state and local ordinances related to the keeping of an animal.
- Following any license requirements for city or county.
- Having your animal wear a collar with rabies tag and identification tag listing name, address and telephone number at all times.
- Remembering that your dog or cat is a companion, not to be used as a guard dog, or any other commercial or utilitarian activity, nor for use in experimental research.
- Returning your pet to the Humane Society for Boone County if you are unable to keep the animal.
- Not adopting an animal to give as a gift, or for an individual who resides at an address other than your own.
- Setting realistic expectations for your pet and making a commitment to humanely address any behavior or health issues that may arise.
- Never selling, trading, giving away or abandoning your pet.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Humane Society for Boone County 765-485-8888

BOONE COUNTY VETS

- All Animals Veterinary Clinic 765-482-7387
Mark Cunningham DVM
107 W Elm St
Lebanon IN 46052
- Terry Brandenburg DVM 765-482-6261
275 W 250 S
Lebanon IN 46052
- John Culberson DVM 765-436-2323
5019 W SR 47
Thorntown IN
- Darlington Vet Clinic 765-794-4787
101 E Main St
Darlington IN
- Lebanon Vet Clinic 765-482-4125
Paul Nordman DVM
1205 Indianapolis Ave
Lebanon IN 46052
- Therisa Luley DVM 317-769-4500
3680 N 1200 E
Sheridan IN
- McDavitt Veterinary Clinic 317-769-6094
9944 E SR 32
Zionsville IN
- New Ross Veterinay Services 765-723-1755
SR 136
New Ross IN
- VCA Animal Hospital 317-873-4679
1008 W Oak St
Zionsville IN
- Zionsville Animal Hospital 317-873-1833
1035 Parkway Dr
Zionsville IN
- Zionsville Country Vet 317-769-7387
5366 S Indianapolis Rd
Whitestown IN

Information regarding fostering, volunteering, etc. can be found on our website: www.hsforbc.org

Pictures and summary information of animals available for adoption at the Humane Society for Boone County at the following websites: www.hsforbc.org / www.petfinder.com

If your pet becomes lost the following are suggestions on who to contact.

- Notify all area vets. Post flyers in their offices.
- Call the Lebanon Street department at 765-482-8870. 8 to 4 weekdays.
- Contact HSforBC at 765-482-8888. Leave your pets details on our recording. We will call you back and get the information and photos posted on our website.
- Place an ad in the local papers. Network, post on Facebook, chatter any form of communication that reaches a lot of people.
- Notify nearby shelters. Animals can travel long distances or can be picked up by someone and taken to their local shelter.

Humane Society for Boone County	765-485-8888
Clinton County Humane Society	765-654-7717
Humane Society for Hamilton County	317-773-4974
Montgomery County Shelter	765-362-8846
Hendricks County Animal Shelter	317-745-9250
Tippecanoe County Shelter	765-474-5222
Humane Society of Indianapolis	317-872-5650
Indianapolis Animal Care and Control	317-327-1397

WHAT YOU'LL NEED FOR YOUR NEW CANINE FRIEND

You'll need the following items before you bring your dog home:

- Leash and collar. ID attached. (Replace our temporary leash and collar as soon as possible.)
- A printout of your dog's vaccination history
- A rabies tag, if your dog is over 4 months old
- A microchip ID tag (if microchipped.)
- Dog food
- Food and water bowls
- Flea Control
- Crate
- Tie down

- Additional items you might want to consider purchasing include:
 - Training treats
 - Toys
 - Brush
 - Nail Clippers
 - Poop Bags

Leashes

Leashes come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Most often, they come in four and six foot lengths, and are usually nylon or leather. There are also retractable flexi-leashes, chain leashes, and long lines. A six-foot leash is best for most breeds – it gives the dog enough room to sniff around without getting tangled. A four-foot leash can be better for smaller dogs and puppies. Leather leashes are usually more expensive, but last longer. Nylon leashes cost less and are washable, but wear out more quickly. Small dogs should have a light weight leash with a small clip so their necks aren't pulled to the ground.

Flexi-leashes extend from two to 15 feet and can be locked into a given length if desired. These are sometimes harder to control than regular leashes and can encourage pulling, so you might want to buy both. Care should be used on busy streets as dogs can run out much more quickly than they can be reeled back in.

Chain leashes aren't very useful unless you have a problem with your dog chewing through leather or nylon leashes.

Long lines are 15, 30, or 50-foot leashes, usually made from cloth. They are intended to be a "safety net" as you begin to train your dog off-leash, and should only be used in

areas where your dog can safely run 15, 30, or 50 ft without getting into trouble.

Collars

Leather or Nylon Buckle Collar: The primary function of these collars is to simply be a place to hang your dog's ID and license information as well as a way to attach a leash. They come in a variety of colors and styles and are available at pet stores and on-line. A proper fit should allow you to snugly place two fingers between the collar and your dog's neck.

Nylon Snap Collars are similar to a buckle collar, but close with a plastic snap instead of a buckle. This can be nice if you have a particularly squirmy or active dog, but can catch the fur on a longhaired dog.

Martingale collars are made from nylon and have an extra loop of cloth. The loop serves as a safety mechanism, so if a dog tries to back out of her collar, it tightens just enough to keep her head from slipping through. Martingales are excellent for dogs who have wide necks and skinny heads, as they are hard to fit with traditional collars.

Body Harness: Body harnesses can also be found at most pet stores. Harnesses fit over a dog's torso instead of his neck, and put less pressure on the throat than collars. They are useful for dogs with throat or neck problems, and dogs with very short necks. The only disadvantages to harnesses are that they can encourage pulling, and that they're much easier to chew off than a collar. You might want to walk your dog on a harness but also have him wear a collar for his ID and license.

Training Chains, sometimes known as "choke chains," are long, skinny chains with a hollow circle on each end, and are used by traditional trainers during training sessions. They are not intended to be used as a regular collar. The training chain got its nasty nickname because if fitted improperly, it will tighten on a dog's throat but not loosen correctly. Do not use a training chain without consulting a trainer on proper techniques and use.

A Prong Collar works similarly to a training chain, but the links are much larger and have metal prongs that rest inward against the dog's neck. When the leash is attached to the collar and pulled, these prongs press down. This is another tool that is intended only for training, not for everyday use. Please consult a trainer about proper fit and appropriate use before putting one on your dog.

Head Collar: There are a number of different types of head collars available such as the Gentle Leader and the Halti. These can help inhibit pulling and can also allow you to gently redirect your dog's head away from something she's investigating. A properly fitted head halter allows a dog's mouth to open comfortably, so a head halter is NOT a muzzle. Primarily a training tool, consult a trainer to make sure it's fitted correctly and you understand its intended uses. It can also take some time for a dog to get comfortable with wearing something on her face, so be sure to ask for advice on getting

your dog used to it. Most head halters come with a booklet on how it should be fit and used.

Front Fitting Harnesses are tools to keep your dog from pulling on leash. They do so by distributing pressure differently than a regular collar or harness: instead of feeling pressure around the chest or throat when he pulls, a dog feels it right behind his front legs. This causes him to stop pulling and take a small step backward. It can be a little tricky to fit, so consult a trainer and make good use of the provided instructions.

ID Tags

Every dog should have an ID tag stating name and a phone number where you can be reached most anytime. IDs can also include addresses and/or note a reward for finding this dog if lost. Many pet stores have a small display of available tags that can be ordered and shipped to your home, or a machine that will make an ID tag while you wait. Make sure your dog's ID is durable, and check it every few months to make sure it's still legible.

Crate

Crates come in different shapes and sizes and are invaluable tools for keeping your dog out of trouble.

Plastic Crates are the type that airlines allow you to transport your dog. They are solid, opaque plastic on three sides (most have little "windows" on the each side) and a wire door that serves as the fourth side. Plastic crates are the most durable and the overall safest.

Wire crates are made entirely of metal wire walls. Some are collapsible, making them easier for travel. Others come with a divider which is useful if you adopt a puppy that will grow into a large dog. Some dogs enjoy being able to see all around them through the wire. Make sure that, once assembled, the crate is solid. If it folds in too easily, the dog's movement might cause it to collapse. Observe your dog in the wire crate before you leave her unattended. Some dogs, especially smaller and younger ones, can get their mouth or paws caught between the wires. The plastic crates provide more of a den or cave-like setting. If you have a wire crate, but want that den feel, simply draping a big blanket over the top and sides will have the same effect.

Tie Downs

Tie downs are pieces of cable wrapped in plastic and should be no longer than three feet. They are for indoor use only. There are other, longer pieces of cable called tie-outs which are supposed to be used to tie your dog outside. While tie downs are wonderful tools, tie-outs can create a variety of behavioral, and safety issues and are strongly discouraged.

Food and Water Bowls

Metal Bowls are the most durable and easy-to-clean bowls available. Metal bowls don't hold smells, can't be chewed by puppy teeth, and are unbreakable.

Plastic Bowls come in more colors and patterns, and are lightweight and usually durable. However, some puppies like to turn them over and chew them. Some plastic bowls are shaped to be harder to tip. Some retain a faint food smell after washing.

Ceramic bowls come in the largest variety of shapes and colors. If you have a dog who likes to spill water or dump over his food, the weight of a ceramic bowl may deter that. These bowls break easily, however, and are best used with a calmer dog .

Plastic double bowls one side come as long troughs with two sections, one for water and one for food, which can be a nuisance when only needs filling at a time.

Bowl Holders: Some bowls come with their own holders that elevate the bowl a few inches off the floor. This can be useful for a larger or arthritic dog. Having a bowl holder can prevent the more energetic eater from nosing his bowl around the room. A holder can keep water from getting caught beneath the water bowl and damaging the floor.

Dog Food

There are many different types of dog food on the market. The most important thing is to find one that works well for both you and your dog.

Dry Kibble: This is the most common food available, has a long shelf life and is economical. However, brands of kibble vary greatly in nutritional value. The first ingredient should be a specific meat (beef, chicken, lamb etc.). Avoid foods that have an ingredient simply called "meat." Also, if the first ingredient is meat, but the next three are grains, chances are that food contains more grain than protein. If you can, choose a food with no corn, as corn allergies are fairly common. Some foods advertise that their ingredients are human-grade (i.e., they have passed USDA inspection for human consumption), but these are also more expensive. Most foods specify on the bag what life stage they're for (puppy, adult, senior) and are nutritionally designed for that age.

Canned Food: Just like dry food, some canned foods are highly nutritious while others are not. Again, choose brands that are sold exclusively through pet stores and check the ingredients. The first ingredient should be a specific type of meat. If the first ingredient is "water sufficient for processing", choose something else. Canned food costs more per meal than dry, although most dogs find it tastier. To help stretch the canned food, try mixing a spoonful of wet food in with dry. If your dog eats exclusively wet food, you may want to consider brushing her teeth daily since canned food can get caught between teeth more easily than dry. Also, make sure your dog has plenty of

things to chew on, because prolonged chewing (longer than 5 minutes) stimulates enzymes in your dog's saliva that helps keep her teeth clean.

Dehydrated Food: These foods are raw fruits, vegetables, meats, and grains that have been dehydrated instead of cooked. To prepare, mix hot water and let the food stand for a specified amount of time (around 10 minutes), then feed. The manufacturers say that the dehydrating process leaves more nutrition intact than cooking, and allows for more convenient storage than frozen (a 3-4 week supply of dehydrated food for a 50 lb dog can weigh about 10 lb.). Most dogs love the taste, but dehydrated foods are expensive.

Raw and Frozen Food: Some diets recommend feeding your dog only fresh, uncooked meats, fruits, and vegetables. Instead of offering a specific food, they instruct the owner to purchase their own ingredients and prepare the food. Some owners find this satisfying, while others find it tedious. There are several brands that offer frozen patties of mixed meat, fruit, and vegetables. Most of these foods are frozen raw, which theoretically preserves more nutritional value. To feed, you can thaw a patty overnight or heat it up a few minutes before mealtime. Owners should consult their vet as specific nutritional guidelines must be followed to ensure diets are balanced and appropriate.

Training Treats

Treats are important for training your dog. One of the best ways to form a successful relationship with your dog is to insist he earn his treats. Treats that your dog loves are most effective for training purposes.

Biscuits: Some dogs love biscuits, but many find them too dull. They can be a nice snack, but they tend to be the human equivalent of a slice of plain bread.

Soft dog treats such as "Beggin' Strips" and other products are designed to look and smell like human food. Most of these treats have zero nutritional value, but dogs usually love them. These sorts of treats are excellent rewards in low distraction settings.

Natural Balance is a unique product. It is soft, smelly, and nutritious enough to be fed to dogs for meals. The salami-shaped rolls can be found most pet stores. It's meant to be cut into slices, and then into bite-sized pieces. Most dogs think Natural Balance is delicious, and it's a good treat to bring to classes or other places with many distractions.

Freeze-Dried Treats such as tubs of crunchy liver snacks and bags of freeze-dried cow and lamb lungs are a nutritious treat that doesn't have to be stored in the refrigerator and that will keep on the shelf for a long time. Most dogs love the way these treats taste.

Human Food Most foods that are nutritious for us are also good for our dogs (and most things that are junk food for us are also junk food for our dogs). Human foods to steer away from are chocolate, grapes, onions, raisins, and garlic. These foods have

elements in them that are toxic to dogs. Using human food for especially challenging tricks or distracting environments will also help your dog focus more on you and what you're asking.

Flea Control

Left to their own devices, 100 fleas can produce half a million offspring in a single month. The itchy bites fleas leave on your dog can cause hot spots and irritation. Some dogs have allergic reactions to flea bites which cause hair loss and red, irritated skin. Below is a list of the most common types of flea prevention.

Topical Treatment: These flea preventatives usually come in little tubes which are applied directly to a small spot on your dog's skin between the shoulder blades. The medication then spreads throughout the dog's skin and coat and is an effective preventative for about one month. Some topical treatments last longer, so read instructions when determining how often to apply and never apply a topical treatment more than once a month. Topical treatments kill adult fleas, often before they have a chance to bite your dog, and begin working minutes after they're applied. Because they use the natural oils in a dog's coat to spread the medication along the body, do not apply within 24 hours after bathing your dog, and do not bathe your dog within 24 hours of applying such treatments. It's also a good idea to use a non-soap based shampoo when bathing your pet, as these won't wash away topical flea treatments. It takes about 24 hours for a topical treatment to fully spread, and during that time the fur directly around the application site will look slick and greasy. Young children should wash their hands after petting a dog who very recently has gotten such medication, or not pet the dog until the treatment has fully spread.

Oral Treatment: These flea treatments are fed to your dog, usually by your hiding them in some tasty tidbit. They have the advantage of being less messy than the topical treatments, and most only need to be given once a month. Instead of killing adult fleas, most oral treatments, like Program, disrupt the flea life-cycle by killing eggs and larvae. This means that although adult fleas can still bite your dog, they can't begin an infestation. If your dog has flea allergies, oral treatments may still leave her itchy and uncomfortable. Capstar is an oral treatment that quickly kills adult fleas, but has no long-lasting effects. It can be given as often as once a day.

Shampoos, Sprays, and Collars: All of these treatments can help wipe out a current flea problem, but none stop the fleas from returning. With both oral and topical treatments available, these products aren't necessary.

Toys

Work to Eat Toys: There are a variety of work-to-eat toys available now, although the most popular among them is still the Kong. The idea of a work-to-eat toy is that a human can easily place food inside it, but a dog has to work to get that food out again.

Work-to-eat toys provide mental stimulation, which can be just as exhausting as physical exercise and are great for when your dog is bored.

Work to Play Toys: Similar to work-to-eat toys, these are toys with other, smaller toys stuffed inside. Your dog has to discover how to get the smaller toys out in order to play with them. These toys can be great for young, mouthy or overly energetic dogs. Because many of these toys are fuzzy and could be chewed apart, they should not be given to an unsupervised dog.

Stuffed and Squeaky Toys: Most dogs love grabbing and attacking soft, squishy toys, and finding and devouring squeakers as well. It's a good idea to have some of these toys around for when your dog wants to chew on something soft. However, some dogs will chew off and swallow small bits, while others will rip out and eat the stuffing. Only let your dog play with these toys when supervised. For the very determined toy-shredder, there are now soft toys that not only Velcro shut and are hollow inside, but come with multiple extra squeakers. When one is found and destroyed, it can be replaced.

Rawhide Chews: Rawhide chews should be avoided. While most dogs enjoy chewing them, they are not digestible, and generally dogs will manage to chew off and swallow them bits at a time. If the pieces are small enough, they will pass through the digestive track. However, if too large, they can get caught going through the intestines. This could cause serious damage or even be fatal. At least, it is an expensive operation!

Plastic Chews: These toys are safer than rawhide but were made for that same extended chewing. They are made of hard plastic usually formed into some "edible" shape like a bone. Most plastic chews have a flavor infused in them, and while dogs will chew bits and pieces off of them, the plastic is so hard they can only manage to shred away bits the size of a grain of rice. If swallowed, these will pass through harmlessly. Plastic chews come in a variety of sizes, and it's important to make sure you get a size appropriate for your dog. Too big, and your dog won't be able to chew it very well. Too small, and your dog may be able to break off larger chunks and swallow them whole.

Starch Chews: Some chew toys are made from potato or corn starch. Because these starches are fully digestible, starch chews are intended to be eaten. However, they're so hard that it takes most dogs several chewing sessions to eat the entire thing. Starch chews are the safest multiple-use chews, and potato starch is better than corn as corn allergies are common in dogs. The one disadvantage to this type of chew toy is that when it gets wet from saliva, it also becomes sticky and the colors can bleed anywhere.

One Shot Chews: These are chews that are intended to be finished in a single session, such as dried pig's ears and Greenies. Most dogs love these chews, but some consider these chews so valuable that they will growl or even snap if you try to interact with them when they have one. If you discover that that's the case with your dog, it's best to contact a trainer to help you resolve the issue (see When to Call a Trainer on page 36).

Interactive Toys: These are toys that are intended to help you play with your dog. Tennis balls, frisbee, and tug toys all fall into this category. It's a good idea to have a couple of these toys around, as interactive play can be a great way to bond with your new companion (and wear him out).

Brushes

All dogs require some sort of grooming, and it's a good idea to have one or two brushes on hand to help you tackle the job. Below is a list of common combs and brushes as well as their intended uses. Each one is meant for a particular coat length.

Curry Brush: Usually round with bristles made of plastic, these brushes are for removing dead hair from shorthaired dogs.

Grooming Glove: This brush fits over your hand and has short bristles, and is intended for grooming shorthaired dogs.

Bristle Brush: This brush looks the most like a human's hairbrush with clusters of soft bristles. It's for combing through mat-free medium-to-long fur.

Pin Brush: This is a brush with long, straight, metal bristles. It's for untangling mats in medium-to-long fur.

Slicker Brush: This brush has a rectangular head with curved metal bristles. It's for routine grooming of medium-length coats. It's also good for pulling free shedding undercoat before it falls out.

Shedding Blades: This is one thin, wide piece of metal curved into a teardrop shape and mounted in a handle. It's used to pull dead fur and loose undercoat from short-to-medium-length coats. It's best to use this brush outdoors, as the fur flies off the dog.

Flea Comb: This is a comb with the teeth extremely close together, and can be very handy in identifying a flea problem. When the comb is run through the base of a dog's coat, it can also catch some of the fleas.

Nail Clippers

Most don't get enough in daily activity to wear down their nails, so they need to be trimmed regularly.

Guillotine Nail Clipper: These clippers have a small opening and two handles that are squeezed together. The opening is where you place your dog's nail. When the handles are squeezed, a blade moves up and across the front of the opening, snipping away the tip of the nail.

Pliers Nail Clippers: These clippers look like pliers. They have two handles with a small blade attached to each. When the handles are squeezed together, the blades meet in the middle and snip. Many of these types of clippers come with a small metal stop you can use to keep from clipping too much nail at once.

Scissors Nail Clippers: These clippers look like scissors with little dents near the end of each blade. These clippers are usually small and are best for young puppies or little dogs. The tip of the nail is placed in one of the dents, and you snip it with the same motion you would use to cut with scissors.

Nail Dremmel: Nail dremmels are nail files, and can be found through pet suppliers and human manicure suppliers. Some dogs prefer having their nails filed down instead of clipped.

Styptic Powder: Dogs have a small vein running through each nail called the “quick”. When cutting nails, you should stop just before the quick so as not to clip the vein. However, accidents happen, and while cutting the quick will not do serious damage, it will cause the toe to bleed. Styptic powder is applied to the bloody toenail and quickly stops further bleeding.

Poop Scoops

Part of being a responsible dog owner is making sure our pets don't inconvenience or annoy the public. This means always picking up after your dog.

Poop Bags: By far the easiest and simplest way to deal with your dog's waste. You can buy little rolls of bags and a dispenser that attaches to your dog's leash at the pet store. A cheaper alternative is to buy plastic storage bags at the supermarket or reuse plastic grocery bags and newspaper bags. Biodegradable poop bags can now be ordered online as well.

Pooper-Scooper: Some people feel a little squeamish about reaching down with their own hands and picking up after their dog with only a thin layer of plastic between them and the poop. An alternative is to carry a pooper-scooper, which means less contact.

THE FIRST 24 HOURS

Congratulations on adopting a dog. If you've never owned a dog before, or if it's been a while since you've brought a new dog home, the first day can be full of questions. This portion of the Adoption Packet is designed to walk you through the first 24 hours with your new dog and hopefully address most of your concerns during that time.

Leaving the Shelter. As part of your adoption, you will have been given a temporary leash, collar, and ID for your new dog. These items were intended to get you home safely, but are not meant for extended use. Before you leave, check your dog's temporary collar. Make sure it is on securely and that it cannot slip over your dog's head. If you find that it can, alert a staff member and they will be happy to readjust it.

Heading out the door, some dogs can't wait to leave while others appear more hesitant. Different personalities respond differently to big changes. Some dogs adore cars while others can be frightened of riding in them. Since the shelter staff may not be able to tell you if your dog has been in a car before, it's a good idea to cover the seat with an old blanket or towels in case your dog gets carsick.

From the moment you leave the shelter to the moment get home, someone should be holding your dog's leash at all times. If you adopted a young puppy or a small dog, carry him from place to place. A dog who gets loose may not come back to you. Remember that your new dog doesn't yet understand that she's coming home.

Getting Supplies. Many pet stores allow you to bring your dog inside and walk him through the aisles. This can be useful if you're purchasing items that must be properly fitted (like collars and crates). However, other dogs may be in the store as well, so if you don't know how your dog behaves around other dogs, it may be best to leave her in the car with someone waiting with her, or leave her at home. The things you will need in the first 24 hours are dog food, bowls for food and water, and some form of confinement.

Arriving Home. Before you step inside, walk your dog around outside to the place where you would like him to potty. Most dogs will begin investigating their new surroundings right away, and some will want to "mark." Let your dog explore the outdoor areas first to make it more likely that he will pee outdoors instead of in your house. If he does pee or poop outside, be sure to let him know what a good job he did.

When you bring your dog indoors, keep him on leash. Walk him through the house and show him important places such as the location of his water bowl, his crate, dog beds and any toys that he can have. Watch for things you didn't anticipate him getting into, such as electric cords, waste baskets and cupboard doors that seem easy to nudge open. Giving your new dog the grand tour on leash means you can note and correct

these issues without your dog getting into trouble. After he's gotten to see the house, take your dog back outside for a final potty break.

Settling In. After the tour, it's time to relax with your new dog. Depending on her activity level, you may want to snuggle on the couch, play some tug, or let her play some fetch in the back yard. Hold off on introducing your dog to non-household members for at least a day. The sudden transition from shelter to home can be overwhelming, and many dogs are much more subdued than normal for the first few days.

Potty Training the First Day. The most important things are to be consistent and keep an eye on your dog. Even if he doesn't ask, take your dog outside every couple hours and reward him if he goes potty outside. Not all dogs know to ask when they need to go out, so offering them an opportunity often means fewer accidents in the house. (*Also see Housebreaking Tips.*) Don't be surprised if your dog doesn't pee or poop much the first day. This is normal. Also don't be alarmed if your dog has diarrhea the first few days. Sudden change in environment and food can cause an upset stomach. If, on the other hand, your dog has bloody diarrhea, get a sample and contact a vet as soon as possible. Bloody diarrhea can indicate several problems, all of which require vet care.

First Meal. Some dogs have a decreased appetite their first days home, so don't worry if your dog doesn't eat. Show your dog the food and leave it down for about 15 minutes. If she ignores the food, just pick it up until the next mealtime. Don't change foods every time your dog doesn't eat. That can create a picky eater. Just offer the same food until she's hungry. Usually lack of appetite the first day has more to do with stress than with disliking the food offered. If your dog does eat, start asking for a small behavior before the bowl of food is put down (like "sit" or looking towards you when you say her name).

Bedtime. It's best if your dog sleeps in a crate the first night. It gives him a secure place to rest and insures that your dog won't get into trouble while you're asleep. Right before bed, give your dog a final opportunity to go out to potty, then place him in his crate and close the door for the night. Some dogs (especially puppies) will cry or whine at first. Ignoring these noises will teach your dog that bedtime is bedtime. If you respond to your dog when he whines, he'll learn that whining is a good way to get out of his crate.

If you have a young pup, expect to be awakened in the middle of the night. Puppies have smaller bladders and need to go potty more often. If your puppy starts whining at 2 a.m., chances are he woke up because he desperately needs to pee. Take him out, but after he relieves himself, place him back in his crate. Going out to potty is one thing, but if you make waking up in the middle of the night fun, your puppy will never learn to sleep until morning.

Waking Up. As soon as you get up in the morning, leash up your dog, let her out of the crate and walk her outside to potty. If you can tether your dog as you go about your morning routine, do so. If not, place your dog back into the crate or on tie down as you get dressed. When you're ready to go, let your dog out of the crate and offer her

breakfast. Give her about 15 minutes to show interest in the food. If she doesn't eat, take the food away until dinner. If you're going to be gone for most of the day, your new dog will need some kind of mental stimulation before you go.

For an older or more mellow dog, this may mean a walk around the neighborhood. The younger and more energetic dog will need something active to do, such as a jog or game of fetch in a fenced-in outdoor area. All of this new morning routine may require you to get up earlier than usual, but it is necessary if you want your dog to be calm and content when you leave her home alone. Before you leave, choose a method of confinement that's appropriate for the length of time you'll be gone (crating for 5 hours or less, confinement to a dog proofed room for 6 hours or more).

Coming Home. When you arrive home again, the first thing you should do is leash up your dog and take him outside to go potty. Keep arrivals calm. The more excited you get, the more worked up your dog will get about you returning. If you are only home for lunch, let your dog stretch his legs and offer him a work-to-eat or work-to-play toy. If you've come home at the end of the day, give your dog another exercise session.

Staying Home. If you don't leave home for work, it's still important to exercise your dog in the morning if you want her to be quiet and calm during the day. You can have her tethered to you as you go about your day, or you can place her in the crate for a few hours if you need some dog-free time. Just because you are at home doesn't mean you should be at the beck and call of your dog. If there are periods during the normal day where you cannot spend time with your dog, begin crating her during those times. Try not to get your dog used to attention and interactions she won't normally get, as once things settle back to normal, it can create frustration.

Questions. Write down any questions during this first 24-hour period. You should get a call from a member of the Humane Society for Boone County staff the day after you adopt. You are always welcome to call the Humane Society for Boone County any time you have a question. Contact numbers can be found at the beginning of this packet.

CONFINEMENT

Confinement is the term best suited to describe how you will always know where your dog is or what your dog is doing. Through the use of various tools, you will confine your dog to certain places or areas. Just like humans are most polite and well behaved when in a new situation, dogs often place their “best paw” forward when coming into a new home. But, just like we relax once we get to know the rules, dogs relax and sometimes rude habits appear several weeks after the dog arrives at a new home.

Confining your dog helps prevent bad behaviors from becoming well-developed habits. You cannot teach your dog what you want unless you are there. Confining your dog while you aren't paying attention to her insures that the behaviors she is learning are ones you want her to practice for the rest of her life.

Confinement also helps reduce your dog's stress and confusion when arriving in a new place with new people. Dogs need someone to show them the ropes in a new situation. The more you can structure your dog's day and teach him what kind of behaviors are acceptable, the sooner your dog will be able to relax and understand the rules of his new home, and the happier everyone will be.

The most common confinement tools are leashes, crates and tie-downs.

Leash Basics

Have your dog on leash, with the leash tied to your belt loop or otherwise attached to you when he's with you inside the house.

Few people realize the usefulness of having a new dog on leash *inside* the home as well as outdoors. When you are with your dog, the leash is an excellent way to make sure he isn't going to sneak off and get himself into trouble while you aren't paying attention to him. Purchasing a carabiner clip or tying the end of the leash to your belt loop gives you two free hands, and keeps your new dog by your side. When you keep your dog near you (some trainers refer to this as “umbilical training”), you are teaching your dog a number of useful things:

➤ **Your dog is learning that he is supposed to be with you.**

Dogs don't instinctively understand that they've been adopted and are beginning a new life. Keeping her on leash helps her understand that you are her new family.

➤ **Your dog will learn immediately not to go potty indoors.**

If your dog gets up to go potty, you'll be right there to catch him in the act and rush him outside.

➤ **Your dog will learn what is and isn't okay to chew.**

You'll be watching everything that goes into your dog's mouth, and you can substitute something appropriate if your dog starts to chew on something unacceptable (like furniture or shoes).

➤ **Your dog is learning that indoors, you are supposed to be calm and quiet.**

If your new dog is on leash, he can't tear through the house.

➤ **Give your dog freedom on the basis of her current behavior.**

Instead of giving your new dog free run of the house and then having to scale back freedom as mistakes occur, umbilical training allows you to use freedom as a reward. Each time your dog goes potty outdoors, she earns 15 minutes of off-leash freedom before she gets tethered to someone again. For every three days of success in your home (no accidents or inappropriate chewing), you can add 15 minutes. So after 3 successful days, your dog can have 30 minutes off leash after each potty, then 45 minutes, then an hour. Gradually, you will wean your dog off of umbilical training, when you're sure she'll use her freedom wisely.

Crate Guidelines

A crate is a place to put your dog when you cannot watch him, not a form of punishment. Crates come in two basic types. The crate will help you manage your dog and will encourage good habits, but it will not eliminate bad ones. You are your dog's teacher; the crate just keeps him away from temptation when you're not around to teach.

While in a crate, your dog can do a number of things: sleep, sit or lie quietly, play with the toys provided. These are the things we'd all like our dogs to do when we're away from home. Leaving a new dog to freely roam in the house can be risky. You aren't there to stop your dog from chewing furniture or having potty accidents in the house. Your dog may decide it's great fun to bark at passersby out the window or to knock over and eat the garbage. By using a crate, you are preventing your dog from forming bad habits.

Choose a crate that's just big enough for your dog to stand up, turn in a circle and lie down. It is very important to make sure that your crate is the right size for your dog. A properly sized crate will allow your dog to comfortably stand up, turn around, and lie down. That's it. If your dog is not filling up most of the crate's space when inside, your crate is too large. Dogs 10 months and older are finished growing taller, so buying a crate that fits them is easy. Puppies and adolescents are trickier, because they're still maturing. The most economical thing to do is to buy a crate for the size of your dog when he becomes an adult, and then fill up the extra space with something like a plastic milk crate.

As your dog grows, you can give him the added space instead of buying a series of crates. Some of the wire crates also come with dividers that you can use to partition off a smaller area until your dog grows. Dogs are naturally clean animals, which means they don't want to soil where they sleep. A dog in a properly sized crate will hold her bladder because if she pees, she'll have to lie down in it. If a crate is too large, your dog may decide to pee in the back half, and then sleep up near the front.

Make the crate comfortable with something soft on the bottom as well as a few chew toys. Towels or blankets work nicely for older dogs. Young puppies, or a dog whose chewing habits you're unfamiliar with, may do best with newspaper to start. You can use shredded newspaper on top of flat sheets, or even an old blanket or towel. You can also add some tasty chew toys. Be careful with stuffed animals or anything with tiny bits that could become choking hazards. Since your dog will be in the crate when you can't supervise, make sure the toys you leave him with are safe.

The crate should be in a secure place your dog enjoys, like the living room, kitchen, or a bedroom. Pick a place where you spend a lot of time. Dogs whose crates are placed in an area where nobody goes often feel as if they're being separated from their families. Make sure your dog's crate is in an area that allows him to feel included. Children should not be allowed access to a dog once he's in his crate, especially if he went in himself to take a break from the rest of the world. Your dog's crate should be his safe haven where he can go if he feels overwhelmed or exhausted.

Introducing Your Dog to the Crate (The Simple Way). Set aside an hour or so when you first bring your dog home to introduce him to the crate. Teaching your dog to willingly go inside will keep you from getting frustrated every time you want to leave your house and your dog refuses to enter. There are two basic ways to introduce a dog to her new crate. The first way is to simply push your dog inside, shut the door, and go about your business. Some dogs do fine this way (especially if you've placed a delicious food-stuffed toy inside ahead of time), but others become very stressed and decide the crate is scary.

Introducing Your Dog to the Crate (The Gentle Way). The other way is to introduce your dog to the crate more slowly. Start by simply letting him sniff around the crate, go inside if he chooses, or not. Take a few small treats (hot dogs or cheese usually works well) and toss them into the crate. Don't close the door yet. Just let your dog walk in, get some food, and walk out again. You're teaching him that going inside the crate is nothing to worry about. Some dogs will happily trot inside to munch the treats. More sensitive dogs may not go in so quickly. Try placing the first couple treats right at the edge of, or even just outside of the crate. As your dog gets comfortable, try putting the treats farther and farther back until your dog can walk into the crate while still relaxed. If your dog dashes in, nabs the food, and runs out, he's still nervous about the crate, and it's not a good idea to move on.

When your dog is calmly walking in and out of the crate for treats, start closing the door as she eats, then open it up again when she turns around to head out. Some dogs get upset when they find a barrier between them and outside. Move at your dog's pace. Next, close the door and start giving your dog treats through the bars for a few seconds. Then open the door and let your dog out.

When your dog is happy about eating treats through the door, start spacing out the treats so there's a few seconds in between. Move out of line of sight. When you have thirty seconds between treats, and your dog remains calm, get a stuffed food toy, place it in the crate, and let him work on it with the door closed. Hang around. Observe. Eating dinner out of kongs in his crate the first night home is an excellent introduction both to stuffed food toys and his crate. Even when your dog is fully acclimated, make sure there's always something appealing in the crate. He's giving up spending time with you, but he may not mind so much if there's something inside to play with instead.

Proper Use. Crates are an excellent place to keep your dog when you are leaving him home alone or when you are going to sleep for the night. Make sure your dog has had the chance to urinate and defecate before putting her in the crate for any extended period of time. While it's fine to leave your dog in a crate while you go to work, you must make sure your dog's energy needs have been met before you place him in a crate for an hour or more. It's unfair to expect a dog brimming with energy to sit still all day without burning any of that energy off beforehand. Ideally, you should come home for lunch or at some point during the day to let your dog out to stretch her legs and relieve herself. If you're unable to do so, perhaps you can arrange for a friend or dog walker to come to your house instead. To keep a dog in a crate for eight to ten hours straight, without even a potty break, is improper use of the tool.

Don't leave meals or water in the crate. It's fine to give your dog a chew toy or kong with something tasty smeared on the inside, but it's not a good idea to fill up your dog's belly and then leave him alone for many hours. Young puppies have to learn to control their bladder and bowels. Feed your dog before he goes into the crate. Give him an opportunity to drink some fresh water. A half-hour before you plan to leave, remove the water and any food that's left. Make sure your dog gets a final chance to go potty before he goes into his crate.

Only let your dog out of the crate when she is not barking. If your dog barks to be let out of the crate, DO NOT let her out until she stops. It doesn't have to be a long pause. If all you can get is a second, use it. But, if you open the door while your dog is barking, she will quickly learn that barking is an effective way to get you to let her out. If you wait until she's quiet, you're teaching her that the door will never open if she's barking.

If You Can't Crate. If no one can let your dog out during the day, you should not use a crate while you're at work. Instead, keep your dog in a dog-proofed room (bathrooms usually work well) where there's nothing dangerous, little she can destroy, and an easy-to-clean floor. Rooms are less effective than crates for housebreaking, but it's better if your dog soils in a room and sleeps on the other side, than to come home to find your poor pooch smeared in feces. A dog who must consistently relieve herself in her crate will unlearn the "don't sleep where you poo" mentality. Instead, use the crate for shorter periods of time, and keep your dog in a small, secure room when you're at work.

Tie-Down Tips

The Tie-Down is a useful management tool for: barking at the door, jumping on people, bothering the family at dinner, unwanted chewing, housetraining, playing too roughly, jumping on furniture, relaxing in the house, meeting a cat

A tie-down is a 2-3 foot piece of cable wrapped in plastic with a leash clip on at least one end (some have a clip at both ends). One end attaches to your dog's flat buckle collar, and the other attaches to an eyebolt screwed into the baseboard of your wall. You can also wrap a tie-down around a piece of furniture, but keep in mind that your dog can get himself into trouble that way. Some dogs are stronger than they look and can pull a sofa across the room or chew the furniture the tie-down is wrapped around.

A tie-down should only be used *indoors* and only when someone is home. It should be placed in a fairly busy area (the kitchen or living room, for example), and, for safety reasons should only be attached to your dog's flat collar, not a Gentle Leader, Halti, Sense-ible Harness, training chain, or prong collar.

When you introduce the tie-down, begin slowly. Place some chew toys, or food-stuffed toys on a blanket where your dog is to be kept on tie-down. Place her on the tie-down for 15 minutes, and sit with her. If she's so happy with the toy that she ignores you, get up and take a few steps away. If she's unfazed, walk across the room. Do this a few times a day for a few days. Then begin to extend the time your dog is on tie-down. Vary the time your dog is on tie-down as well, so she doesn't know precisely how long she'll be there each time. If she starts to bark, move away or leave the room until she stops. Return and offer praise when she quiets again.

Tie-downs are great for management, because they help limit your dog's choices. When a new guest arrives in the house, your dog could do a number of things, including rude behaviors like barking, jumping or playing tug-of-war with pant legs. If your dog is on tie-down these options are limited. He cannot barge in front of you and greet your guest before you do. He has to wait patiently while you greet the new arrival, and if he wants petting or attention, he has to offer behaviors you find appropriate before your guests approach. You are teaching your dog acceptable behaviors without lifting a finger.

General Management: If you're busy with things around the house, and can't keep a close watch on your dog, placing her on a tie-down will keep her out of trouble.

Jumping: If your dog likes to jump on family members or guests, you can use the tie-down to help curb that behavior. Place your dog on tie-down before your guests arrive, so he can't rush to the door and pounce. Then, after you greet your guest and your dog has calmed down, you can try letting him off tie-down. If he jumps, calmly tell him "off" and walk him back to the tie-down. Reattach him, wait until he's relaxed, and try again. Your dog will quickly start to learn that jumping on people will make him miss out on their company. If you have a particularly devoted jumper, you may not want to take him off tie-down at all. Instead, have your guest make a slow, calm approach. Each time your dog jumps or bucks, your guest should stop and take a step back. When your dog's paws return to the floor, your guest can approach again. Your dog does not get to meet and greet until all four paws can remain on the ground.

Housetraining: You can use a tie-down in conjunction with a crate when housetraining your dog. Because a tie-down is short, the distance she has to move about in is about equivalent to when she's in a crate. Being on tie-down allows a bit of variety, and you can give your dog some attention if she's being particularly well-behaved.

Cat Introductions: If you have a cat at home and are worried about that first meeting, place your dog on a tie-down and let the cat have free run of the room. Every time the dog sees the cat and remains calm, give him a treat. (You can also give your cat treats for being calm.) Using the tie-down allows your cat to feel safe and you to be in control.

Furniture Rules: If you've decided not to allow your dog on the furniture, keeping her on tie-downs in rooms with couches and beds will help establish the habit of relaxing on a comfy spot on the floor. This is especially useful for bedtime if your dog likes to sneak up onto the bed after you've fallen asleep. Some people prefer to have their dog on a tie-down instead of crated overnight.

Begging Prevention: If you want your dog to learn to be in the same room with you and food without demanding some for himself, place him on a tie-down in the room in which you are eating, but away from the table. You can even give him a food-stuffed chew toy or other distraction so he has something to do besides beg for table scraps.

When NOT to Use a Tie-Down: There are a couple instances when using a tie-down can actually create more problems than it solves. If you have a multiple dog household, *do not place one dog on a tie-down while leaving the other(s) free in the same room.* Oftentimes, the free dogs will taunt or harass the one on tie-down. Similarly, *do not use a tie-down when small or active children are in the same room.* Children too will sometimes taunt dogs on tie-down either intentionally or by accident, and this can create a dog that becomes fearful or uncertain around children. When your dog is on a tie-down, nothing should be able to make him feel frightened or trapped. In a room of high activity, a crate is a safer and more secure choice. *Do not use a tie-down outside or if you are leaving the dog unattended.*

HOUSEBREAKING

Housebreaking can be a frustrating experience for many dog owners. In general, using the crate, the leash, and the tie-down drastically help reduce the number of accidents your new dog will have in the house. As you are managing your dog in the house, there are things you can do to encourage your dog to go potty outside as well:

Go outside with your dog. Remember that dogs have no innate sense that outside is the potty area. There are constantly new smells and new sights, and a dog that is not housebroken may choose to sniff and explore, then come back inside and pee on the rug. Your best bet is to actually see whether your dog went to the bathroom outside, and the only way to do that is to go out there with him.

Establish a regular schedule. Puppies benefit from eating at the exact same time every day. The more regularly food goes into your dog, the better you can predict when it will come out again.

Reward your dog for a job well done. If your dog goes potty outside, make a big deal about it. Pet her in her favorite spot and give her extra-special treats. This will help teach your dog that going outside is really fun. On the other hand, when there's an accident in the house, ignore it. Dogs are horrible at thinking backwards, and they cannot make the connection between what happens now and what happened three seconds ago. Yelling at your dog for a mistake she made moments earlier will only confuse and frighten her. It will not help her understand what you want, nor will it improve her housebreaking skills. If, however, accidents in the house are ignored while successes outside are consistently rewarded, your dog may notice that going potty outside is much more fun than going inside.

Be Consistent. This is crucial. If you've started crate training and umbilical training, stick with it. Having your dog on leash one day, off the next and so on, can create some troublesome habits. Wait until good habits are strongly established before you give your dog the run of the house. Freedom is something he must earn.

Know Your Dog's Signals. Watch your dog outside and observe the little habits and rituals she performs right before she actually pees or poops. Then, if you see those same signals in the house, get your dog outside immediately.

Take Your Dog Outside After Intense Play Sessions, Long Naps, and Meal Times. These are times when dogs (and especially puppies) are most likely to go to the bathroom. Even if you take your puppy outside and then feed him right after, take him out once more when he finishes eating. Better safe than sorry.

TRAINING

Did your mom ever ask you to “say please”? Well, she was probably hoping to teach you manners and how to be polite with adults and peers. This is one of the goals for our dogs, and they can sometimes benefit from learning to say “please” as well.

Some trainers call this the “No Such Thing as a Free Lunch” program, others call it the “People Empowerment Program.” However you want to refer to the program, it is one used widely among dog trainers and behaviorists to help set people and their dogs up for success. In any home, dogs are more appreciated and allowed to be more a part of the family when they have good manners.

Dogs are very social creatures, but they need clear leadership in order to find their place in a group and feel secure. We love our dogs and indulge them with affection, exercise, treats, toys, and all manners of great things. Dogs need leadership from us, but it does not need to be punitive or negative. This program allows you to both indulge your dog and allow her to earn her keep. This is a way of living with a dog that helps him behave better, trust you more, and accept your leadership, confident of his place in the family.

How to teach your dog to “say please”

- Teach your dogs some behaviors that he can do on cue such as **sit** or **down**. Even teaching your dog to look at you in response to calling her name can work. Tricks like **Bow**, **Speak**, **Sit Pretty**, and **Roll Over** are all fun behaviors to teach your dog.
- Once your dog has learned some simple behaviors, you can begin to ask your dog to do these behaviors on cue as a way of “Saying Please” before getting something they want.
- Before you give your dog any of the things he likes most (attention, petting, food, treats, toys, release from crate, going out the door, leashing up), he must offer you a behavior you ask for. **Sit** is good default behavior. If your dog has to sit every time he wants something, this will become an automatic way the dog brings himself under control.
- Once you have given the cue, don't give your dog what she wants until she performs the behavior. If she doesn't do the behavior, ignore her and walk away. Turn back and ask again and be sure your dog is paying attention to you. When your dog offers you that sit or other behavior, then she gets what she wants.

Benefits of this program

- The best benefit is that your dog gets to practice important behaviors that you have taught in many situations and for many types of rewards.
- For that pushy dog who is always asking for attention, it allows you to use the attention as a reason for the dog to work for you. You can turn nudging and annoyance/demand barking into opportunities for your dog to work for your attention.
- A fearful dog can build confidence as he learns that he can control the world around him. After all, from our point of view, a dog who sits is behaving nicely. From a dog's point of view, sitting has now become a way to ask for something and be understood!
- For new dogs in the home, this program can create and deepen the bond between human and dog.

Make a list of the things your dog likes and from now on make him “say please” for everything she wants, every time!

My Dog Loves to:

1. _____ 6. _____
2. _____ 7. _____
3. _____ 8. _____
4. _____ 9. _____
5. _____ 10. _____

BEING A POSITIVE PACK LEADER

The idea that dogs need leadership is not a new one. Most dog owners have heard the term “alpha”; the idea of a pack leader that historically has meant behaving as if you are bigger, tougher, and stronger than your dog. However, new information has been brought to light in the past decade. Pack leaders, it is being discovered, are not necessarily the biggest and the meanest. They are the ones who are the calmest, who display the most self control, and who assert their authority in ways that are firm but fair. Pack leaders are not only concerned with maintaining control, but also in serving their pack. This means that while dogs need to feel as if someone is in charge, the best way to demonstrate your authority is by being benevolent. Your dog may have all of the treats and toys she likes *but* she must get them from you and she must earn them.

Be the Access Point for Resources: We all feed our dogs, give them potty breaks, and play with them. But, the dog who gets food from a bowl that is perpetually full, walks in and out a doggy door when he pleases, and initiates play by dropping a ball in your lap is probably going to consider himself in charge of his own world. On the other hand, a dog who eats specific meals will observe you preparing and providing them. A dog who must ask to go outside looks to her owner for outdoor access. A dog that only gets to play games when her owner initiates them is grateful instead of expectant. This second dog would consider her owner much more important than the first because that owner is the access point through which she gets everything she wants and needs.

Make Your Dog Earn His Rewards: Place your dog on the Say Please Program which can be found in this packet. Having your dog perform a small task (like a sit or a down) for each good thing he gets will remind him that those good things come from you and he must earn them rather than be entitled.

Keep Your Cool: The best pack leaders rarely get angry or loud. Ignoring attention-seeking behavior is much more effective than scolding or punishing it. When your dog is behaving in ways you don't like, the calmer you are as you deal with her, the more powerful you seem.

Protect Your Dog: One of the most important jobs a leader has is making sure the others in the pack are safe. If your dog is showing fear or discomfort in a situation, it's your responsibility to remove him from the situation by leaving or by placing him in another room or a crate. When someone comes to the door, it's your job to greet the visitor and make sure he means no harm. This may mean placing your dog on tie down so he cannot barge ahead of you. The more you can control a given situation, the more your dog will trust you to keep him safe, and the less he'll rely on his own defenses.

Expect the best: as pack leader, it is your responsibility to keep your dog safe from harm, to ensure that she has enough to eat and drink, and that she is content. It's a hard job and is not without its perks. Pack leaders have earned the right to claim the best resting spots. They are allowed to eat before others and get the ultimate say-so on where and when the pack travels. In human home life, this means that if your dog is draped on the couch, you get to sit down next to him and move him out of the way until you're sitting where you like. It means during mealtime, your dog is not entitled to table scraps and you can ignore pleading eyes. It also means if your dog ignores your request for a sit before playing fetch, you can put the ball away, leave, and try again later.

PREVENTING BOREDOM

Every breed of dog that exists today was created for a specific purpose. Shepherds and collies were bred to herd. Pointers, retrievers, setters and hounds were bred to hunt. Terriers were bred to find and kill vermin while toy breeds were created to be ideal lap companions. Most of these jobs require a lot of energy or time in close contact with an owner. Over the generations, our dogs have become extremely good at the things we have bred them to do.

But the average dog-owner's life now is very different from what it used to be. Many of our work schedules demand that we spend nine hours or more away from home, and this can leave us so exhausted that once we get home, we don't want to move much again. Our low-key lives can be hard on our dogs. Their breeding demands that they get up and go, and we are constantly telling them to lie down and stay. Without healthy outlets for their natural energy, bored dogs will find ways to amuse themselves. Unfortunately, this can result in destruction of furniture, digging, barking, and even running away. It is our responsibility to make sure our dogs use all that energy and intellect in healthy and fun ways. Below are some ways to help exercise the body and mind of your dog.

Make your dog a part of the family: Remember that most dogs were bred to spend a lot of time with us. By including them in our daily lives, we can relieve some of the anxiety that routinely being left alone can create. Using confinement methods can be of tremendous help when integrating your dog into family activities.

Watch TV together- it's simple and provides a great opportunity for some cuddling and down time. You can even work short training sessions into commercial breaks.

Take your dog with you on short errands. Take your dog through the drive through with you or bring him with you on kid-shuttling trips. Do make sure that your dog is safely confined when you are running your errand. Leave him in the car only if weather permits, and if it won't aggravate any barrier frustration issues. If you're walking, never leave him tied up outside of a store. Make sure that you've got another family member or trusted friend to hang onto him.

Take your dog with you to friends' houses if your dog is welcome.

Exercise: Ensuring your dog gets enough exercise is one of the most important and underrated things you can do for him. There are many fun ways to get your dog exercise. Make sure that you are aware of your dog's endurance levels and that you don't do too much too soon.

Play Fetch or Frisbee if your dog is inclined. This is also a great activity that can be played indoors on rainy days.

If your dog is dog-friendly, set up Doggie Play Dates with a well matched canine pal. Also see if dog parks may be a viable option for you and your dog.

Take your dog swimming. Some dogs love to swim! Some hate it. You won't know until you try.

Take your dog on hikes or walks. While walks are a great form of exercise, keep in mind that many dogs, especially young ones, need a daily chance to run at full speed.

Enroll in an obedience class. Obedience is a fun way to strengthen the bond between you and your dog. Furthermore, it will mentally and physically exercise your dog, while providing an important opportunity for socialization with other dogs and people. Try Agility classes once you've got some basic obedience under your belt. Herding dogs are great candidates for Agility, although many other breeds enjoy these activities too!

The key is that all of these forms of exercise are interactive: Dogs, like people--, are less likely to exercise if left alone. With company, getting exercise is more fun and can be a great opportunity for you and your dog to strengthen your bond.

Toys: The investment you make in toys can prevent finding your things destroyed during your dog's fits of boredom. Instead of trying to curb your dog's natural inclinations, try giving him several appropriate outlets. Before giving your dog toys, consider toy safety:

- Give your dog toys that are made specifically for dogs (and not children).
- Check the condition of your dog's toys often. Throw away toys that have exposed stuffing, squeakers, or have been chewed into pieces that can easily be ingested.
- Toys made out of a very hard rubber and rope toys are usually safest, though some heavy chewers can destroy these types of toys as well.
- Be sure to supervise your dog when they're playing with toys to minimize choking hazards.

Work-to-eat toys Rather than giving your dog her meal in a bowl, give her a way to earn it — and expend mental and physical energy in the process! There are a variety of great toys on the market that dispense food over time and can help keep your dog engaged while in her crate, on tie down, or during down time with the family.

Kongs: hollow toys that can be stuffed with food. Oddly shaped, they bounce in unexpected directions and keep your dog on his toes. Choose the right size for your dog. Kong recipes available at www.kongcompany.com under "Tips and Advice".

Premier Busy Buddy Toys: A large variety of food-dispensing toys to keep your dog occupied. The “Twist and Treat” is an excellent starter toy. Kongs filled with peanut butter or cheese are good choices.

Biscuit Balls/Treat cubes: These toys have an inner maze that kibble travels along, so that random pieces will fall out as your dog rolls the toy.

The key to Work-to-Eat toys is to start easy. If your dog can't figure out how to get the food out of the toy, he will give up. When he becomes expert at getting the food out, make it slightly harder by packing food tighter, or creating mixtures of things such as peanut butter, cream cheese, cheese, mashed potatoes, cottage cheese, or baby food.

If your dog is pretty food motivated, work obedience into your day, and make her earn her kibble from you. There's no reason your dog has to get her meal out of a bowl! Earning her meals from you is a great way for you to establish leadership and is a good opportunity for your dog to learn how to be polite.

Developmental Toys: A great line of puppy toys by “Petstages” that cater to your dog's different developmental stages.

Work to Play Toys: These toys engage your dog and help her exercise her problem and puzzle solving skills. The following are plush toys that have several smaller squeaky toys that “hide” inside. They are toys that are designed for you to use with your dog so you can help her problem solve. They include I-Cube, Egg Babies, Intellibone, Hide-A-Bee, Hide-A-Bird, and Hide-A-Squirrel, and are available online at www.sitstay.com and various retailers.

Toys and Treats for a Hot Day

- Ice cubes, or frozen cubes of chicken or beef broth.
- Frozen Kongs with your dog's favorite fillings.
- Chilly Bones or a rope toy in soaked in chicken broth and frozen.
- Doggie ice cream.

Be sure to get involved! Your dog will enjoy their toys that much more if you are sharing in the fun. Set up a toy box or basket. This will give your dog a centralized location from which to grab toys. If she's bored, she will always know where to go to find something to play with. Rotate toys to keep things exciting.

Providing your dog with ample opportunities for physical and mental exercise can help keep your dog out of trouble and, more importantly, help foster a happy loving relationship with your dog. Keep your dog's life full of surprises, and you may be surprised at how calm and well-behaved your dog can be!

PREVENTING POSSESSIVENESS

Protecting food and possessions is a common problem. Puppies learn to growl or snap at their littermates to keep them away from their food, and can continue this behavior with their human families. As dog owners, it is important to teach our dogs to be comfortable with humans near their food.

Try the following exercises several times daily.

NOTE: These exercises are designed to prevent, not treat, possession. If your dog shows any signs of possession (freezing, growling, snapping) please contact a trainer.

Food Bowl Exercises

- **Approaching:** While your dog is eating, toss a special treat into his food bowl. Have others do this as well. This will make him excited to see anyone approaching his food.
- **Touching your dog and her food bowl:** Put a special treat into the bowl, and let your hand linger in the bowl for a few seconds. Drop in a few more treats while gently petting the dog. Have other people do this as well, so your dog learns that it is good to have people near her food.
- **Removing food:** Put a small amount of food in your dog's bowl and let him start eating. Before he finishes, pick up the bowl and add more or tastier food. Repeat, adding additional food each time you pick up the partially full bowl.

Object Exchange Exercise

Give your dog an object that is interesting, but not too exciting. Say "Give" or "Trade" and take the object away. Immediately give your dog a treat. If necessary, use the treat to lure her head away before picking up the toy. Give the object back and repeat.

Your dog will quickly learn to give up her object since she gets it back, as well as a treat. Object exchanges are also a great way to encourage your dog to bring her fetch toy back to you.

Hand Feeding

When your dog is hungry, let him eat some of his food directly from your hand. This teaches your dog so that food comes from you, and strengthens the bond between you and your dog.

UNDERSTANDING CANINE BODY LANGUAGE

In the world of dogs, nearly every intention is communicated through the body. The way a dog holds his head, how he tilts his ears, and how straight he stands all communicate information to other dogs. As owners, it's very useful to have a basic understanding of canine body language. It allows us to better read our own pets as well as other dogs.

In general, "low and back" usually indicates caution, uncertainty, or submissiveness whereas "high and forward" indicates interest, excitement or dominance. Most of the time, your dog's body will be somewhere in the middle, which will indicate a calm, neutral state. A good way to notice your dog's overall body position is to imagine a directional arrow just above him, pointing in the direction he seems most likely to move. If the arrow's pointing forward, your dog is very likely to approach something (i.e. stalk the squirrel in the grass, approach and bark at the fence, move closer to and interact with the dog coming down the street). If the arrow is pointing backwards, your dog is likely to next move away.

Here is a quick overview of each body part and its signals. Remember that when trying to read a dog, never look at only one body part. Instead, look at the whole picture and then draw your conclusions.

Ears: Ears come in different shapes and sizes, but they can all swivel forward and back. Some types of ears can be harder to read than others. Dogs with long drooping ears present a greater challenge than dogs with prick ears, because when a pair of drooping ears lift up and forward, it's very subtle. On the other hand, when prick or "wolf-shaped" ears lift up and forward, it's easy to see.

Ears pushed forward and high on the head indicate either extremely interest or extreme confidence, based on the situation. Ears that are tilted back are indicative of worry or submission. If a dog is very worried, his ears will tend to stay back. If a dog is just trying to send the message that they're subordinate to the person or dog they're approaching, the ears will flick back, but then righten again after a few seconds.

Eyes: Eyes can give you a lot of information about a dog's emotional state. A relaxed dog will have pupils that are small little pinpoints. However, a nervous or very excited dog will have large, black pupils. If your dog's pupils have become so big you cannot see the color of her eyes any longer, remove your dog from her current situation as soon as possible.

Another thing to look for is "whale eye". Whale eye is when you can see the whites of a dog's eyes repeatedly or constantly. A relaxed dog will move her whole head to look at something. A frightened dog will widen his eyes and hold his body more stiffly. The result is that he looks at things out of the corner of his eyes and you can observe the whites more readily.

Mouth: We often notice a dog's mouth when the lips have been lifted and the teeth are bared. Even before that sign, there are more subtle things to look for. Watch the corners of your dog's mouth. A relaxed dog has a relaxed mouth. A cautious or frightened dog will often pull the corners of her lips backwards, making the lips appear thin and stretched. A confident dog may push her lips forward, making her mouth appear smaller or puckered.

Tail: This is the place most people look first when gauging a dog. We've all been taught that a friendly dog wags its tail. However, not every dog that wags his tail is friendly. Carefully watch how the tail is wagging. A tail that is held high and stiff and seems to be quivering or wagging from the middle, does not indicate a friendly gesture. This is the sort a wag a dog will have if he's stalking prey or about to begin barking. It's an indication of high excitement and not of a happy greeting. A tail that is wagging in a wide sweep from the base is usually means a much more calm and relaxed dog.

Many dogs hold their tails lower when they're approaching people, and a low wagging tail is usually a sign of a friendly dog. Some dogs have tails that curl over their backs and so can't be lowered. With these types of dogs, it's even more important to look at the rest of the body before deciding if a dog is being friendly. Lastly, a fearful dog will often tuck its tail up and against his belly. A dog with a tucked tail is indicating some kind of discomfort with the current situation.

Posture: High and forward means confidence and interest whereas low and back means submission and/or worry. You should also watch how loosely or stiffly your dog moves. A calm, relaxed dog will walk with loose limbs, whereas a tense dog will move much more stiffly. It's important to watch your own dog's posture when she approaches a new person. If your dog is meeting another dog, you should keep an eye on both dogs' postures. If your dog is sending friendly signals, but the other dog is not, avoid the interaction.

Fur: Often, an excited or distressed dog will raise up the hair between his shoulder blades and/or at the base of his tail. This fur is commonly known as "hackles" and a dog with that fur standing on end is said to have "raised hackles". Raised hackles can mean different things on different dogs and can be likened to goose bumps on humans. Some dogs raise their hackles when excited. Others do it when they're frightened. As a general rule, even if you cannot always predict why a dog has his hackles raised, it is an indication of some sort of heightened emotion.

DOG PARK GUIDELINES

Finding ways to exercise a dog can be challenging when you live in a heavily populated area. Leash laws require dogs to be on leash in most places. Most city dog owners don't have any property of their own where they can let their dog run. In response, dog parks have sprung up all over, and many owners take their dog to let them run and interact with other dogs. There are advantages and disadvantages to these parks.

One of the main advantages of dog parks is letting your dog exercise with other dogs. Dogs can keep up with one another and can play tag much longer than we humans. Some dogs will spend minutes or even hours playing tug or keep away with one another. Dog parks can be an opportunity to meet other dog people, as well as a place to watch different breeds and mixes enjoy time together. It is one of the few places in the city where dogs can run off leash, and an hour at the dog park will have most dogs tuckered out for the rest of the day.

However, many people view dog parks as dog sitters. That is, they come in, let their dogs loose, and proceed to ignore them until it's time to go home. It's not unheard of for someone to come drop off his or her dog, leave, and return later to pick him up. Dog walkers often come to dog parks with four or more dogs, letting them all loose at once. In our culture, there seems to be a sense that dogs who don't get to play with other dogs are missing something.

While some dogs might agree, most primarily want to be with their people. In fact in the same way not every person would relish the idea of spending an hour a day in a room with fifty strangers, not every dog likes going to dog parks. Shy or sensitive dogs can be completely overwhelmed by more boisterous canines. Young bossy dogs get to practice their bullying day after day.

Many young pups are brought to dog parks because their owners hope they'll learn good doggy manners from other dogs, but instead they learn how to be bullies. Dog parks with a single entrance can create issues as well. Dogs will crowd around the entrance and bombard a new arrival, often creating a frightening experience for everyone. Many owners bring their dogs to dog parks with the best of intentions, but they simply do not know how to read canine body language. They allow unacceptable behaviors to go on, because they don't understand what they're seeing. Although many dogs go to dog parks, not all are good dog park dogs.

It takes a very specific personality for a dog to enjoy and play well at a dog park. Observe your dog playing with another, one on one. What is your dog's playing style? Does she like to grab and wrestle? Does she chase? How much time does she spend trying to make her status known, and how much time does she spend playing? Does she like toys? If so, what does she do if the other dog shows interest in her toys? Her treats? What does she do if another dog shows interest in you? How does she handle herself when another dog grouses at her or does something she dislikes? How does she respond to a much larger dog? A much smaller one?

A dog who would play well at the dog park must be very respectful of other dogs' play styles and personal space. He must both have a play style that most other dogs would enjoy (no intense wrestling) and also deal with rude or pushy dogs without starting a fight. Dog park dogs shouldn't spend much time worrying about status. They should be flexible and more interested in playing than in social structure. They shouldn't mind when other dogs approach their owners or their possessions. They should be able to interact peacefully with dogs of all shapes and sizes, and they should be able to remain calm and cool when being approached and sniffed by multiple dogs at once.

If you decide to try a dog park, begin slowly. The first time you go to a dog park, go without your dog. Make sure it is well fenced, and that the owners are attentive to their dogs. If you're comfortable with the park, bring your dog during off-peak hours giving her a chance to get her bearings and not feel overwhelmed. Bring some treats with you and reward your dog for checking in with you from time to time. Also, watch your dog closely. Does she seem nervous or relaxed? If she seems frightened, you may want to re-evaluate your decision to take her to a dog park.

If dog parks aren't right for your dog, there are many other ways to give him daily exercise and excitement. Hiking on trails where dogs may pass each other, but they aren't expected to play, or enrolling him in agility or Rally-O classes are good alternatives. If your dog loves tennis balls, you may want to consider teaching him the sport of Flyball. Teaching your dog tricks is both good physical and mental exercise. If you jog or hike, take your dog along with you. Check out <http://www.dog-play.com> for information on many sports and activities that you can do with your dog.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Positive, loving relationships with pets help children become responsible, respectful, humane and caring adults. Children who are bitten by dogs are scarred both physically and emotionally -often for life. All children, even well behaved and well supervised children, will eventually do something to the dog relentlessly, invasively, and beyond the point of what is tolerable. We want to ensure your child does not get bitten or hurt at that moment. Your dog should be as happy with your family as your family is with your dog.

In our evaluation process, we look at the dog's responses and thresholds to normal, everyday circumstances. We consider how tense he gets when approached, nudged, or petted while chewing on a pig's ear or rawhide; how the dog tolerates having his body handled, being hugged, longer than he may want; how he copes with being restrained, and how he reacts when he is made to do something he doesn't want to do or prevented from doing something he really wants to do. We test for his predatory excitement levels. We look at how roughly he plays, how sensitively he handles his body and whether he is gentle and respectful of his size and the size of others. We see how affectionate and sociable he is.

But what we are doing is evaluating how a dog may behave in a home while he's still living in a kennel. We handle and work with each dog and provide the most complete assessment we can before placing a dog in a home with young children, but this is not foolproof. Please take the following suggestions seriously. They will help you keep your child safe.

Parental Responsibilities

- Never leave a child alone with your new dog, not even for a second to turn your head and answer the phone.
- No one in the family should encourage rough play or wrestling. No one should let the dog play with human body parts or clothes. If an adult plays with the dog in this manner, the dog may be stimulated to play as roughly with a child, putting the child at risk for injury.
- Feed your dog in an area completely protected and away from children, as much to give the dog a bit of peace and privacy as to prevent guarding behaviors. The dog should also be fed portions that are quickly finished so there is nothing left in the bowl for the dog to linger over and guard. Empty bowls should be put away so the dog can't guard the feeding area.
- Watch your dog closely when your child has company. Most children are bitten, not by their own dog, but by a friend or neighbor's dog. Many dogs will tolerate a lot from their own family's child but not from a visiting child. Visiting children often do

not behave as well as, or behave differently from your child and can provoke your dog.

- If your child's friends have dogs, you need to meet the friend's dog before you allow your child to visit their house. Check to see if the owner of this dog allows unsupervised interaction between children and the dog. Ask when and where the dog is fed and check to see if there are any chewable toys or bones lying around. Ask that they be put away while your child visits. Unless you are sure that their dog has no possessiveness problems, insist that an adult supervise at all times when children are with the dog.
- Give your dog a safe haven in the house where he can go to take a break from the children. This can be a room or his crate, but it's important to help your children understand that when the dog is in his safe place, he's not to be disturbed, no matter what. If your dog knows he has a way to take a break from the kids, he's less likely to snap or snarl when he feels overwhelmed.

Watch out if your dog uses his mouth in play or to move or control the child. Any dog over five months of age should not use his mouth to play, and is probably not playing. He may be trying to control humans with his teeth, no matter how gentle he appears to be. Watch out if your dog cuts in between you and your child during hugging or any other affectionate interactions. This can indicate jealousy, rank aggression, or guarding of you, the owner.

"Let sleeping dogs lie" is a saying created by someone who really knew dogs. Teach this to your child and keep an eye on visiting children. Never allow anyone to startle, wake, or hug a sleeping dog. Also, dogs by nature are grouchier and testier in the evenings and at night. If your dog drops off into a heavy sleep in the evenings, put him in a private room or into a crate so that you can prevent a child startling the dog.

Watch for any growling. Dogs growl to warn us of biting. Owners have often commented that their dogs growled all the time, yet they were shocked when they finally bit. Owners believed that the growling meant the dogs would never bite. Growling is never a vocalization a dog makes just to talk. Dogs don't talk by growling---they growl to let us know that they need help; they are warning us that they are preparing to bite. Determine carefully if the growling is **ONLY** during play. Make sure it is mild, and make sure the games between the child and dog seem "cooperative" rather than competitive and serious.

Watch for combinations of events like these: Your dog may be fine if approached by your child while the dog is chewing on a rawhide, and, separately, your dog may be fine when approached and hugged while resting on your couch, but your dog may growl or even bite when approached by your child **AND** hugged **WHILE** he lies on the couch chewing a bone. Your dog may be fine being hugged by your child in general, and your dog may be fine when held by the collar and restrained from chasing the cat or bolting out the front door, but your dog may growl, snap or bite when hugged **WHILE** restrained or keyed up or frustrated.

WHEN TO CALL A TRAINER

When bringing a new dog home, it is inevitable that there will be a few bumps and hiccups as you and your dog begin adjusting to your new lives together. Sometimes, a new owner encounters something unusual and may be unsure if it can be dealt with at home or if it requires professional help. You are always welcome to contact the Humane Society for Boone County for any questions you may have, but below are a list of behaviors that should be resolved with the assistance of a trainer, rather than on your own. If you encounter any of these behaviors or situations, please contact a trainer.

Freezing, Growling, or Snapping Over Food or an Object: If you walk by your dog or if you sit down to pet your dog while he's chewing on a treat and notice any of these signs, please contact us right away.

Freezing, Growling, or Snapping When You Ask Your Dog to Do Something He Doesn't Want to Do, or When You Try and Stop Him From Doing Something He Does Want to Do: Examples might be a growl when you try to make your dog get down off the couch or when you hold him back from going outside.

Showing Fear Towards a Family Member: Fear can manifest in many ways. Some dogs will cower and cringe away while others may growl or snarl.

Showing Fear Towards Strangers: Some dogs are simply aloof with new people, which is fine. But if your dog seems afraid of new people, contact a trainer.

Barking at People and/or Other Dogs On Leash: This is an issue that can become worse the longer it's left unaddressed.

Extreme Distress When You Leave the House: If you come home to find your room in shambles and your dog panting and covered in her own drool, contact a vet or trainer.

Repeated Growling or Fighting with Other Resident Dog(s): While it can take some time for a new dog to settle in with other dogs, if you repeatedly see your dogs growling at one another, or if they have even a single minor fight, keep the new dog separate and contact a trainer.

MEETING OTHER DOGS

If you're going to allow your dog to meet other dogs, either on or off leash, here are some important things to keep in mind.

Meeting On Leash

On leash meetings can be stressful for dogs because the leash is confining. A dog who feels frightened cannot run away and is more likely to lash out. Leashes also limit movement, so signs dogs might give to one another can be hampered or prohibited. Follow these pointers to help make on leash introductions as pleasant as possible.

Approach in an Arc: When dogs approach each other, they walk towards one another in a curved path instead of moving forward in a straight line like humans. Approaching in an arc is a canine way of saying "hello, I mean no harm". When on leash, dogs must walk where we walk, so moving in an arc allows your dog to have nice canine manners. It can also help relax both your dog and the approaching dog.

Observe Both Dogs: As you approach, watch both your own dog and the other dog for signs of fear or aggression. If either dog appears uncomfortable, don't insist on having them interact.

Always Ask First: Not everyone wants their dog to meet other dogs. Be certain to get the other owner's permission before the dogs meet.

Keep Leashes Loose: The tighter the leash, the more restrained your dog will feel and the more likely she will be to act aggressively if she feels threatened. Keeping your dog's leash loose allows her to feel more at ease and gives her the ability to step away if she feels uncomfortable.

Stay Calm and Relaxed: Dogs are excellent at noticing human emotions and responding to them. If you become stiff and nervous when a dog approaches, you will transmit that worry to your dog. Try to appear relaxed, even if you aren't.

Don't Pull Your Dog Away: When you're ready to end an interaction, cheerfully call your dog away. Don't pull him on the leash. Tightening the leash can cause your dog or the other dog to panic. Stay calm and entice your dog away with a happy voice and a little treat.

Meeting Off Leash

Off leash meetings have the advantage of allowing the dogs their full freedom of movement, but they also give the owner far less control.

Carry A Leash, Treats, and a Noisemaker: The leash helps if you lose verbal control of your dog. Treats encourage your dog to check in with you and allow you to reward good behavior. A noisemaker, such as a little aerosol foghorn, can be used to startle dogs who show signs that they may not get along.

Understand Your Dog's Body Language: Before you start letting your dog play with others off leash, be certain you can read him well. If you have a hard time deciding if your dog is at ease or not, he's not ready for off leash play.

Keep Moving: Don't stand still when your dog is playing. Move around. Circle the perimeter of the dog park or walk in a wide circle. This makes it necessary for your dog to continually pause to see where you are. These check-ins keep play calmer and also teach your dog to keep one eye out for you regardless of what else is happening.

Don't Force or Coddle: You shouldn't make your dog play with another dog or push her into a situation if she's behaving fearfully. But on the other hand, you should not reward your dog for being scared by petting and cuddling her. Instead allow your dog to take whatever time she needs to be comfortable, and stay calm and keep petting to a minimum when she's hiding behind you.

Stay Attentive: If your dog is interacting with another dog, keep watching them. Don't lose focus or become complacent because things seem to be going well. It is your responsibility to watch your off leash dog at all times.

Step in at the First Sign of Trouble: If you sense your dog or another dog is uncomfortable, stop or pause the play immediately. Call your dog over to you, or go get her if she doesn't come. This may seem excessive, but things can escalate very quickly when a dog feels overwhelmed. It's always better to be safe than sorry.

MULTIPLE DOG HOUSEHOLDS

Introducing a new dog into your home can feel overwhelming, especially when you have one or more other dogs already living with you. As your new dog begins to adjust and becomes accepted by your resident dog(s), here are some things to keep in mind to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Allow a hierarchy to form. In the world of dogs, there's no such thing as equal standing. Every dog is either superior or subordinate to every other. Although we humans love the idea of equality, dogs need to define who outranks who in order to live peaceably together. The best thing we humans can do is respect the ranking our dogs establish. If one dog consistently arrives first to be petted, fed, and go through doorways, this dog has established himself as the most dominant. If the other dog(s) are at ease, honor this dog's position by consistently petting, feeding, and letting him out first.

Feed dogs separately. Especially in the beginning, feed each dog in a different room until they have established their relationship with one another.

Pick up high value toys and chews. Things such as Nylabones, pig's ears, and greenies are better stored away than left out. Such objects are so delicious, dogs may fight over who gets what when.

Keep dogs separate when unsupervised. Until your dogs are completely comfortable with each other (and this can take months or longer), separate them when you aren't home or can't watch them. Be prepared for the possibility that your dogs may never be safe to leave alone together. This tends to be especially true with same sex pairings and dogs of vastly different sizes.

Brush up on your resident dog(s)' obedience as well as teaching the new one. Obedience training is a great way to strengthen the bond between owner and dog. Asking your dogs for behaviors also helps remind them that you are the ultimate leader of all the dogs. This can help your newest addition feel more welcome and your resident dogs feel more secure.

Spend time with both of them together and with each of them separately. Just as we get tired of our best friends, spouses and siblings, if we are with them all day every day, your dogs need breaks from each other. They also need some special time just with you. This can be done by setting aside formal activities such as obedience classes and dog sports or by taking only one dog hiking one day, and only the other dog to the pet store the next day.

DOGS AND OTHER PETS

If you own smaller pets such as cats, rabbits or guinea pigs, introduce your dog slowly and make certain you always have control over him. Remember that dogs are meat eaters who still have the drive to pursue, catch, and kill prey animals. What counts as a prey animal will vary from dog to dog. Being predatory (predation) differs from other forms of aggression and has different signs. A dog who wants to catch and kill a cat will not growl or curl his lip as he might do if posturing to another dog. If he's hunting something, he will be quiet and quick. Predation isn't about gaining or losing status; it's about food.

Separate to Start: When you bring a new dog home, keep your smaller pet(s) and your new dog separate. Let your dog sniff under the door if she likes, and let your other pets do the same on the other side. Place small towels or rags on each pet's sleeping area and, after a day, switch the towels. This gives each animal the time to get used to the other's smell before they meet face to face.

Watch for Signs of Predation: A predatory dog may freeze and become very stiff when he sees a cat or other small animal. He may crouch low to the ground and begin to stalk. Some dogs will strain to get towards the other animal while emitting a high-pitched whine or a shrill bark. Others will begin salivating. Some may stand stiff over the smaller animal. These are all signs of predation.

Keep Your Dog Confined: When you first allow your dog and your other pets to meet face to face, keep your dog on a leash, a tie down, or crated. Give your other pet freedom of movement, but have a second person in the room just in case. Reward your dog with food treats for being calm and relaxed around your other pet. Don't force the two to meet. Move at your smaller pet's pace. As your pets become relaxed around each other, begin to let go of your dog's leash, but leave it on her to grab if necessary. Full introductions can take weeks or months.

Never Leave Pets Together Unattended: When you're out of the house, crate your dog or keep your other animals in a separate room.

Have Reasonable Expectations: Some dogs become best friends with cats. Other dogs and smaller pets co-exist and ignore each other. Some animals split the house, the cat living upstairs and the dog living downstairs (or the cat taking countertops, the dog taking the floor). Some dogs and small pets will always have to be managed closely. While not every dog will become fast friends with other animals, most can learn to peacefully co-exist.

PREVENTING LEASH REACTIVITY

Many dogs that are perfectly behaved around people and other dogs off leash will bark, lunge, and snarl when meeting those same people and dogs on leash. This is known as “leash reactivity” and can create embarrassing situations and a dog that is a challenge to handle on leash. The beginnings of leash reactivity are usually found in puppy-hood or adolescence. It can begin either as fear of new people and dogs or as excitement. The frightened dog quickly learns that barking will make the scary thing go away. The excited dog often begins to bark in frustration when she can’t reach the creature she wants to play with and then learns that barking, in and of itself, can be fun. Both of these situations can create dogs that make a habit out of barking and lunging on leash. Below are some ways to prevent your dog from becoming leash reactive.

Bring a pouch of high-value treats on neighborhood walks: You can use an old purse or fanny pack to store treats, or you can purchase a treat pouch at a pet store. Any time you see a dog or person approaching, get your dog’s attention and offer him a continuous stream of treats until the person or dog is out of eyesight. Then close the pouch and continue on your walk. This will make the arrival of people and other dogs a cue to engage with you.

Ask for a good behavior before allowing your dog to meet new people and dogs: Request a sit or a down from your dog. If he cannot perform the behavior, he cannot meet a new person. This can help keep excitement levels down as well as demonstrating that you have ultimate control over who your dog meets and when.

Find a management tool that allows you to walk easily with your dog: Head halters and front-clasping harnesses are wonderful tools if you have a dog that pulls on walks. Being able to set the pace for your walks will also help you maintain control when you encounter people and dogs.

Keep your cool: If you begin to feel anxious when encountering new people and dogs, your dog will notice and react to it with anxiety of her own. Even if you’re inwardly concerned, stay outwardly calm and your dog will too.

Read your dog: If your dog is showing signs of fear when passing other people, don’t wait for growling or barking to begin. Get your dog out of a frightening situation as soon as you see he’s uncomfortable. This will make you a much better leader as well as a place of safety in your dog’s eyes.

All of these are ways to prevent leash reactivity. If your dog is already barking on leash, contact a trainer as soon as possible. The longer this problem goes on, the harder it is to work with.

HEALTH AND VACCINES

In order to maintain your dog's health and well-being, it's important to keep her current on all of her vaccinations. It's also a good idea to have her examined by a veterinarian once a year. Usually, these two things can be done together. Young puppies require multiple vaccinations in their first year while older dogs only require one each year.

Besides routine vaccinations and medical exams, there are other things you should do to maintain your dog's health.

- **Watch for signs of illness:** Common signs that your dog may be ill are: runny nose, excessive eye discharge, excessive coughing or sneezing, more than 1-2 loose stools in a row, bloody diarrhea, excessive drinking, lowered appetite, vomiting, loss of energy. If you see one or more of these symptoms in your dog, contact a veterinarian.
- **Maintain an appropriate grooming schedule:** Dogs with shorter fur require less grooming but more skin care. Dogs with longer fur need to be brushed, often 2-3 times a week to prevent mats and tangles. Dogs with hair (such as poodles) require a professional grooming session every six weeks.
- **Use flea prevention:** Keeping your dog on flea preventative medication means less itching and discomfort for your pet. Fleas can also transmit diseases and the parasites tapeworm and heartworm.
- **Discuss heartworm prevention with your veterinarian:** Heartworm is prevalent in some areas and of minor concern in others. Talk with your veterinarian about whether your dog should be on preventative medication or not.
- **Check routinely for ticks, foxtails and burrs:** Dogs with longer coats are especially likely to collect these things, but any dog can get them. Routinely inspect your dog's body for ticks, foxtails, and burrs. Pay special attention to your dog's eyes, nose, ears, and between his toes. Ticks can transmit diseases, burrs scratch and irritate the skin, and foxtails can burrow their way through the skin to get lodged inside your pet.