

# Adopting a Puppy



Rescued Animal Pictured

Compliments of: Eaton County Humane Society

## Patience Patience Patience

So, you've decided to take the plunge. You've found a ball of fur you want to make part of your family. Unfortunately she didn't come

with instructions. Don't worry, we're here to help.

In this pamphlet, you will find a few tips for housebreaking your new puppy, because we know that you love him, and you want him to be a member of the family. But, most of your family members know how to use the restroom.

First, and most important, don't get frustrated. Realize this is going to take some time. Were you potty trained in one day? Go ahead, ask your parents. Of course not, and Rover won't be either.

Next, accidents do happen. You may seem to make a lot of progress, and then, one day she'll have a setback or two. Don't take it out on yourself or your puppy.

## Crating

Many people who have been through house-breaking swear by crating. A crate is NOT a cage. It may look like a cage, or even a prison cell, but most puppies and dogs actually like their crates. Many centuries ago, when your puppy's ancestors were wolves, they slept and lived in dens. Your puppy still has the instinct to find security in a den. It is up to you to make the crate his den.

A den is a secure, cozy place. Most puppies and dogs like to be able to touch three of the four walls of a crate. This gives the comfort of security. If a puppy can touch the walls, she knows no one can sneak up on her while she sleeps. Another advantage

of a cozy crate is that a puppy will not go to the bathroom where she sleeps.

A crate should never be used for punishment. A crate should be used as the puppy's "room". This is where he sleeps, and stays while you cannot keep an eye on him. Because as mentioned before, a puppy will not go to the bathroom where he sleeps, he will "hold it" as long as he can. So when you have to leave your pup to go to work, or anywhere else, leave him crated and soon, you will come home to no "messes" in his crate.

## Interrupt Correct Praise

You know it's going to happen. You can see it in her eyes. She has to "go" but she refuses to go outside. She squats, and your new carpet is now used. Don't sit there in disbelief...act quick to save the future of your carpet! First, interrupt her. Stop her "mid-duty" by startling her with a noisemaker. Good noisemakers include a butter tub with a few dry beans inside, a rolled up newspaper slapping against your hand, or simply your hands, clapping sharply.

Now, get him outside as fast as possible. He is sure to be a little scared, so it will take a few minutes for him to resume "his duty". But eventually, he will. This is one of those times where you have to be patient. Encourage him with phrases like "good boy...go potty".

After she's done eliminating, praise her. Pet her, and say things like "such a good girl!". Most puppies are food-motivated, so give her a treat. Soon, she'll associate going potty outside with treats. In no time, she will tell you she has to go out because she really wants that treat...and to please you.

## More Tips

- Many pet stores sell various housebreaking supplies such as "puppy pads", which are treated with chemicals to "tell" your puppy to eliminate on the pad. Pet owners have mixed reviews of these products.
- Never put your puppy outside unattended to go to the bathroom. It takes puppies awhile to realize your home is theirs, and they are likely to roam.
- Likewise, do not depend on an underground fencing system to keep a puppy contained. She needs to be trained to use an underground fencing system, just like she needs to be house-trained.
- This won't be a one-day training. It could take months to fully housebreak your puppy. Don't get frustrated, and call us for further assistance on the matter.



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# Adopting an Older Dog



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## Puppy or Dog?

So you are thinking of adding a new dog to the family, but can't decide between a cute puppy or a full-grown adult dog. You have to ask yourself, do you have the time to properly housetrain and socialize a young puppy correctly? An adult dog will offer you immediate companionship without the training and time involved in raising and house breaking a puppy.

Adult dogs are usually housebroken, altered and up to date on their shots. Their size, coat type and personalities are already developed so it is easy to choose the right dog for your family. More importantly you are giving a deserving dog a second chance and gaining a wonderful companion who can give you and your family many years of love and devotion.

## Choosing Your Dog

Here are a few tips on choosing and bringing home an adult dog.

- Look for personality—make sure to play with the dogs and bring the entire family. Your lifestyle should dictate what type of temperament and breed you choose. If you are a physically active person and family that wants to take your dog walking or jogging, a more active personality and breed of dog would fit your lifestyle better. For someone looking for a gentle companion who wants to sit quietly next to you, you will want to look at a more calm personality and breed.

- Size and breed—adult dogs are already the size they will be. Look at the space and time you have to make sure it fits the breed of dog you are looking to adopt.

- Breed matters (somewhat)—coat, hair length and need for grooming are questions you should ask yourself

when choosing a perspective dog. Research the breeds you are interested in to you help you answer these questions. There are many books available, talk with the people at the rescue center and visit the American Kennel Clubs website ([www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)) where they have descriptions for each breed.

## Bringing Your Dog Home

After you've found the perfect dog, you will be taking him/her home to become a member of the family. Here are a few tips for acclimating your dog to your home.

- Make the car ride safe—some dogs love to ride and are experienced, while others are not. Make sure you have a leash and secure place to sit the dog in the car. Many dogs ride safely loose in the car but until you know how your dogs rides, you should be careful. Using a crate or special seatbelt harness for the dog is a good option to keep you both safe during the ride home. Talk to him/her soothingly while driving home.

- Arriving home—it's best to take the dog for a walk to relieve themselves first. Show them the boundaries of the yard by taking them around the outside. Taking them for a walk around the neighborhood as soon as possible will give them the chance to relax and is often a good idea before you introduce your dog to your other dogs and pets.

- Introducing a new dog—you may already have other dogs, cats or pets. Introduce your new dog slowly bringing in one dog at a time, if possible, and make sure they are allowed to meet and sniff each other under supervision the first few times. Sometimes it works best to crate your new dog for the first couple of weeks, even if they are housebroken. Teaching your new dog your schedule and structure helps them adjust easier.

## Getting Started

Before you bring your new dog home, make sure you have the following supplies:

- Food and water dishes—it's best to have separate feed dishes for each dog.
- Sleeping area—a dog bed, blanket and possibly a crate should be placed where you want the dog to sleep, rest and be alone. This is especially important if you have small children. Make sure your family understands that this is your dog's area to rest, get away and relax.
- Treats and toys—hard dog biscuits, nylabones and natural bones are all good sources for them to chew. Tennis balls, rope toys and soft toys are available, but make sure your dog does not chew and ingest pieces. They should be supervised. Choose appropriate treats & toys for the size of dog.
- Training—even adult dogs benefit and it will bond your dog with you and make him/her a happier and well mannered companion.



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