

# El Paso County Canine Rescue



## ADOPTION – THANK YOU FOR ADOPTING, WHAT’S NEXT?

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Adopting a new dog is wonderful and exciting but can also be overwhelming. Below are some tips to help ease the stress for you and your new furry family member.

Regardless of age, training, length of time in foster care there is going to be an adjustment period as you find a routine and structure that works for all of you. Dogs need time to learn your habits, what is and isn't allowed in your home, and to develop trust and comfort that comes from knowing he is finally in his forever home. Don't make the mistake of expecting perfection from day one. The lifetime of unconditional love and companionship will more than make up for the bumps that you will overcome in the beginning. And remember there are resources – you are not alone.

If you had the opportunity to speak with the dog's foster family take what they said to heart. Most fosters have had the pups long enough to know about their foster dog's personality and behaviors, things they like and don't like, what scares them or makes them relax. If the foster parent tells you the dog really hates having your face in his face, you probably shouldn't put your face in his face. If he fears loud noises don't be surprised if he hides during fireworks. And the opposite is true. If they say the dog has never been destructive and you find he's eating your couch maybe he isn't getting enough exercise or there is a problem that needs to be addressed.

### **Supplies – what will he need**

You should have supplies on hand prior to taking home your new pup. There are basic supplies that every pet needs such as food and bowls but there are also things you might not think of such as a pet gate and grooming items. At the end of this packet is a checklist of suggested items.

### **Getting your home ready for your new pup**

Just like you would safe guard a child from things in your home it is a good idea do “puppy” proof your home. Make sure everyone in the home understands if you don't want it chewed put it where a pup can't get to it. Put away any items that could be harmful. If you have cats be sure they have a “dog free” space where they will feel safe until adjusted to the newest family member.

### **Be sure your pup has their own safe space**

It's likely that even though your pup is happy to have a forever home and family he may be a little uneasy at first and need some place to feel safe while he adjusts. Crates are great for that. Even left open most dogs will go in and out as their comfort level increases. If

your pup goes in willingly keep in mind he just needs some space. Don't allow family members to crawl in with him, that could make him nervous or feel cornered.

### **Once you're home.....**

When you first get your dog home it is suggested that he be kept on his leash while you show him around the yard and/or house. Even if you think there is nowhere for him to go you might be surprised. You would hate for him to get spooked and wriggle under your deck or to the back of a closet with no way of getting him until he feels comfortable enough to come out.

### **Family introductions**

It is also suggested that introductions to other family members, human and furry, be done slowly and supervised. If your new pup is a little on the timid side don't let children make fast movements or give tight hugs. Older pups might not welcome face to face contact immediately. All introductions to other dogs should be done on leashes or with the new one in a kennel or behind a pet gate, some place where both are safe from unexpected bites.

### **Illness**

It is normal for dogs to experience loss of appetite, sleeplessness, loose stool, etc. upon arriving in their new home. If any symptoms last more than a couple of days feel free to contact the rescue or your veterinarian. Ways to limit these issues – try to keep him comfortable and give him time to settle in, keep him on the same diet and feeding schedule, don't over do it on treats and avoid giving him table scraps.

### **Training**

You should begin training your dog right away. Even if they are housebroken and/or have some training there is a likelihood that being in a new environment will take some getting used to and they will have accidents or not sit on command, etc. If you need help ask. Rescues tend to work with a variety of trainers, volunteers are familiar with trainers and programs and there are several options online. Over 98% of dogs returned because of some behavioral issue could have been trained, very few behaviors or dogs are “untrainable.” Consistency is key.

### **Outings**

You will get medical records from the rescue upon adoption. If your dog is older and had all his shots outings are not an issue. However, if your pup is younger and hasn't finished the 3 part series or under 4 months of age and has not yet received his rabies vaccine he is susceptible to diseases such as parvo and distemper. It is recommended to not go to dog parks or doggie day cares until all vaccinations are completed. If going to the vet or pet stores keep your pup off the floor.

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## Foods Dangerous to Dogs

- Alcohol
- Apple Seeds
- Apricot Pits
- Artificial Sweeteners
- Avocados
- Bones (cooked)
- Candy – especially chocolate
- Cherry Pits
- Chives
- Citrus
- Coconut & Coconut Oil
- Coffee (grounds, beans, drinks)
- Corn on the Cob
- Garlic
- Grapes
- Gum
- Hops
- Macadamia Nuts
- Moldy Food
- Mushroom Plants
- Mustard Seeds
- Onions and Onion Powder
- Peach Pits
- Potato Leaves and Stems
- Raisins
- Rhubarb Leaves
- Salt
- Tea
- Tomato Leaves and Stems
- Walnuts
- Yeast Dough

## Plants Dangerous to Dogs

- Amaryllis
- Autumn Crocus
- Azalea
- Cyclamen
- Daffodil
- Dieffenbachia
- Kalanchoe
- Oleander
- Sago Palm
- Tulip

## ITEMS CHECKLIST

- Dry Dog Food
- Wet Dog Food
- Water & Food Bowls
- Collar, Leash, Harness
- Flea & Tick Control
- Stain/Odor Removal Products
- Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Dental Treats
- Crate/Kennel
- Treats
- Dog Bed/Mat/Blanket
- Brush
- Shampoo
- Nail Trimmer
- Dog House
- Toys
- Training Pads
- Long Lasting Chews
- Pet Gate