



Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter

9500 Sweet Valley Drive | 216-525-PUPS (7877)

Congratulations!

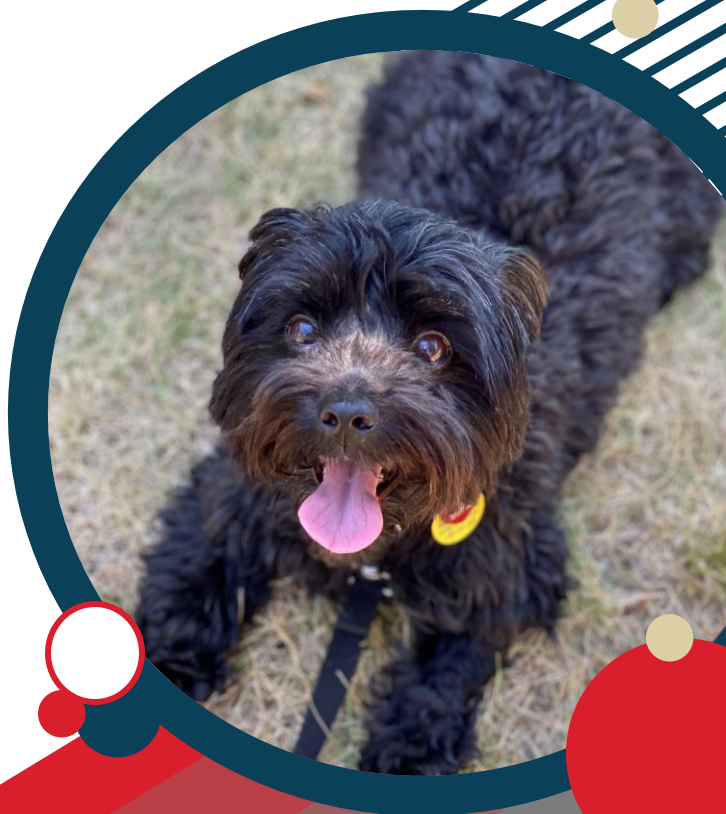
Thank you for adopting a companion animal from the Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter!

Getting your newly adopted dog home and settled is an exciting time. It's important to make the transition from the shelter to home smooth for them, you and your household. This booklet is designed to address many of the questions you may have about how to care for your new dog. Please give us a call if you need any additional information or advice.

About Us

Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter is a temporary home for dogs that are found on the streets by the Deputy Dog Wardens. Dogs are held for a minimum of 72 hours, based on the Ohio Revised Code, in order for the owner to reclaim them. After the holding period, unclaimed dogs may be available for adoption through our adoption program. Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter is fully funded by dog licenses, shelter fees and donations.

The Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter is a law enforcement agency enforcing Ohio laws that protect the public from canine-related problems. Our mission is first and foremost public safety. As a part of that mission, we would endeavor to reduce significantly or eliminate the stray dog population and to make dog owners responsible for their pets.



Website
cuyahogadogs.com



E-Mail:
infoccas@cuyahogacounty.us



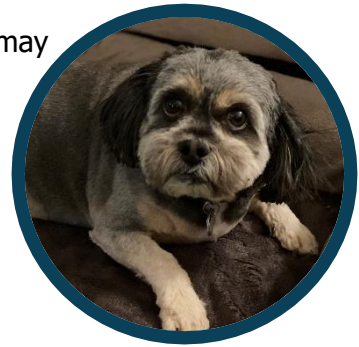
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Mission of Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter: Provide humane canine care and control, reunite lost pets and owners and ensure the safety and welfare of the community and animals through appropriate law enforcement and education.



• Your Adoption Includes

- Spaying or neutering; a surgical procedure to prevent continued animal reproduction.
- Microchip
- A combination vaccine called DHLPP was given on or around the day he/she was admitted. This vaccine is used as an aid in the prevention of highly contagious canine illnesses. A follow up vaccine may be recommended by your veterinarian.
- Bordetella, which is an intranasal vaccine to protect against Kennel Cough.
- Pyrantel Pamoate, a de-wormer used to treat roundworms. Other intestinal parasites may exist and will need to be treated. Please follow up with your own veterinarian.
- A flea bath or treatment, ONLY if fleas were evident. Further flea treatments/preventatives are needed. Please follow up with your veterinarian.
- Cuyahoga County dog license. Annual renewal of this license is required by law.



Welcoming Your New Dog Home

BE PATIENT • During this exciting time, keep in mind that your new dog has likely experienced a lot of change. It is now coming into a new home and new family, so take things slow. Give it time to acclimate to your home before introducing to strangers. If there are children in your home, make sure they know how to approach the dog without overwhelming it.

GET TO KNOW HIM

• Understanding body language can help you understand how your dog might be feeling. Loose body posture (tail in a neutral position), no facial or mouth tension and ears out to the side

or slightly back, can indicate that your dog is feeling relaxed. Stiff body posture, tucked tail or moving away can indicate that your dog is not interested in interacting.

HELP HIM GET ACQUAINTED

• If you have another dog, introductions should happen in neutral territory, like on a short walk through a park or your neighborhood. Remember to be patient, don't force interaction and keep praising good behavior. At home, remove items that might cause either dog to become possessive, like a favorite toy. Be sure each dog has their own food and water bowls and give treats and toys when the dogs are separated. If introducing your new dog to your cat, a baby gate

is a helpful tool. This will allow them to see each other but prevents contact. Leash your dog so that you can lead him away from the gate if he becomes too focused. You can try feeding them on opposite sides of the gate to help form positive associations.

HELP HIM FEEL AT HOME

• Establishing a routine and creating boundaries can help your dog understand what to expect and when and when (such as meal or potty time). Be sure to give their own space, such as a bed, crate or room.

What You Need To Do

- Select a veterinarian and schedule a health exam within 10 days of your dog's adoption.
- Read through the provided materials.
- Prepare your environment for your new dog.



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Cuyahogadogs.com



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Introductions 101

Dog-to-Dog:

- All dogs have unique personalities. Always use caution and be in full control of the situation when allowing dogs to meet for the first time.
- It is usually best if they meet on neutral territory so that your resident dog is less likely to view the newcomer as a territorial intruder.
- Each dog should be handled by a separate person. With both dogs on a leash, take them to an area with which neither is familiar, such as a park or a neighbor's yard. If it looks like a fight might break out, make a loud shouting noise or spray water while instructing both dogs to stop.
- You should never try to get in the middle of a dog fight.
- Allow each dog to sniff one another for short periods of time. Dogs will greet face to face then quickly move to sniffing nose to rear, which is normal dog behavior. If you observe sniffing that seems to be intense or too long in an area, distract the dogs by calling their names and giving them treats.
- From the first meeting, you want both dogs to expect "good things" to happen when they're in each other's presence. As they sniff each other, talk to them in a happy, friendly tone of voice – never use a threatening tone. After a short time, get both dogs' attention, and give each dog a treat in return for obeying a simple command, such as "sit" or "stay." Take the dogs for a walk and let them sniff and investigate each other at intervals. Continue with the "happy talk," food rewards and simple commands.
- When you notice that the dogs are tolerating each other, you can take them home. Once home, avoid feeding them next to each other. It is a good idea to keep your new dog confined or separated from your resident dog when you are away until you are sure they get along.



Dog-to-Puppy:

- Before the age of four months, puppies may not recognize subtle body postures from adult dogs signaling that they've had enough.
- Well-socialized adult dogs with good temperaments may set limits with puppies with a growl or snarl.
- These behaviors are normal and should be allowed.
- Adult dogs that aren't well-socialized, or that have a history of fighting with other dogs, may attempt to set limits with more aggressive behaviors, such as biting, which could harm the puppy.
- A puppy shouldn't be left alone with an adult dog until you're confident the puppy isn't in any danger. Be sure to give the adult dog some quiet time away from the puppy, and perhaps, some individual attention.



Dog-to-Cat:

- When introducing your new dog to your resident cat, make sure your dog is on a leash and your cat has an escape route or is confined in a carrier. Some dogs have strong predatory drives that can harm or stress out your cat.
- You may want to have a family member or friend around to help handle the dog. Place your cat on one side of the room. Have a friend give the cat a special treat. Walk your new dog into the room on a leash and reward him with a treat. Stay on the opposite side of the room with the dog until the animals begin to feel relaxed. It may take several short sessions until the pets are tolerating each other without fear or aggression.
- Expect the cat to hiss and strike out. Expect the dog to back off immediately as the cat establishes her role in the house. If the cat runs and hides, (remember: the dog is leashed so he can't give chase) repeat the above process- the resident cat simply isn't ready.
 - You can then allow the cat to freely move around the room with the dog still on a leash. Make sure the cat has an escape route or a high place to leap to.
 - Your new dog must be taught that chasing or playing rough with your cat is unacceptable. He must also be rewarded when he behaves appropriately.
 - Regardless of the dog's behavior, we recommend that the animals are not left alone until you are very confident that the introduction is successful.
 - It takes time for cats to adjust to new canines in the home. BE PATIENT!





Introductions 101

Dogs and Children:

- Establish the house rules and enforce them from the day your new dog or puppy arrives. Be sure the entire family is consistent and uses the same rules.
- Not only do you need to teach your dog how to act around your kids, such as not jumping up, but you must also teach your children how to behave properly around your new dog. Always supervise children and dogs when they are together.
- Instill an attitude of mutual respect between your pets and your children. Pulling ears and tails, teasing, hitting, and tormenting the dog etc., can lead to a bite. Even the best trained dog has limits.
- Your child should never bother a dog while he is eating or sleeping. Dogs have bad days just like we do. If they are not feeling well, a pulled ear that normally would be ignored could, this time, end in a bite.
- When your child's friends come to visit or when encountering children in public, encourage them to ask permission before they pet your dog. Once permission is granted, have them hold out their hand and allow the dog to sniff it prior to petting. It is unrealistic to expect a child, regardless of age, to have sole responsibility for caring for a dog.
- A small child should never be left alone with any dog. Allow them to get used to each other from across the room or yard. Your children may act differently than other children have acted with them. Allow him to keep his distance until he is comfortable rather than letting kids corner him or force him to be petted or hugged. Don't relax your supervision because things are going well.
- Your new pet will go through an adjustment period of several weeks. He will be on his best behavior while he tries to figure out the rules. Once they settle in, they may get tired of a child's poking or pulling and might nip to discipline. This is the way a dog would discipline another dog that has gotten too pushy. It is natural canine behavior, but unacceptable in a human family. In situations like this, the dog always loses, often being given up at the nearest shelter.
- Be careful not to make your children jealous by giving the new dog too much time and attention. They may retaliate by punishing the dog when you're not there.
- Never leave small children unattended with a new dog!

Supplies

Before or immediately following bringing your new dog or puppy home, it is important to purchase a few basic supplies.

CONFINEMENT:

Crate, cage, exercise pen or bed. Your dog or puppy needs a dry, clean place to sleep.

FOOD:

We recommend a high-quality dry food. Adult dog, senior dog and puppy food are nutritionally different; make sure you select food based on your dog's age for optimal health.

FOOD & WATER DISHES:

Ceramic or stainless steel are preferred. Plastic bowls can harbor bacteria and can become chew toys.



COLLAR:

Purchase an adjustable flat nylon or leather collar to which you can attach ID tags and leash. Choke chains are not an appropriate substitute and can injure your dog. Be sure to check the tightness of the collar regularly and allow for growth.

ID Tags:

Your dog's ticket home if lost. Customized tags can be purchased at Petsmart or through mail order. These do NOT replace a county dog license!

Leash:

There are a variety of lengths and colors. A leash should be the correct weight for your dog and be comfortable in your hand.

Cleaners:

Enzyme-based cleaners do well at breaking down organic stains and eliminating odors from training accidents.

Safe Toys:

We recommend Kong toys. Always monitor your dog while playing to avoid choking hazards.

Grooming Supplies:

There is an endless variety of dog brushes and combs. Ask your vet which is best for your dog's coat.

New Dog Basics

Dog Proofing

- Make sure breakable objects are out of reach.
 - If you have a fenced in yard, check for gaps or possible escape routes.
 - Put away shoes and important belongings your dog can chew on.
 - Secure lids on trash cans or place them inside cabinets.
- Remember, anything within his reach is fair game. Don't get mad at your dog for being a DOG!



Commitment

Adopting a dog or puppy is a long-term commitment! Dogs have an average lifespan of 8-12 years, but some dogs can live 15 years or more. Your commitment to being a responsible dog guardian for the duration of your dog's life includes:

- Providing good food, clean water, medical care, a safe and comfortable environment, appropriate exercise and training for your dog.
- Complying with state and local ordinances related to keeping a dog, including a yearly license with the county.
- Providing a collar and ID tag with your name and phone number(s) for your dog to wear at all times.
- Addressing all behavior or health issues that may arise in a humane and timely manner.

Expense

Your new dog will rely on you for everything – food, supplies, grooming, boarding when you're away, training, ongoing and preventative veterinary care. Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter estimates the yearly cost of caring for a dog after the first year to be anywhere from \$380-\$1200, or greater.

Feeding and Nutrition

The amount you feed your dog each day depends largely on the size of your dog, and on the type of food you feed. Most commercial dog foods have a feeding chart on the bag to help you determine the proper amount to feed each day. Break up your dog's daily portion into two (or three, for young puppies) daily meals to help establish his housetraining routine. Free feeding makes it nearly impossible to predict when your dog needs to eliminate and can also cause gastrointestinal difficulties with larger breeds of dogs.

Dental Care

Regularly brushing your dog's teeth and providing a healthy diet and plenty of chew toys can go a long way toward keeping their mouth healthy. Many dogs show signs of gum disease by the time they're four years old because they aren't provided with proper mouth care—and bad breath is often the first sign of a problem. Give your dog regular home checks.

Exercise and Stimulation

Regular walks and play sessions not only provide dogs with some exercise, but also help to meet social needs. Insufficient exercise and stimulation can contribute to problem behaviors including destructiveness, hyperactivity, attention-getting behaviors and even barking. Appropriate mental stimulation in the form of interactive toys, neighborhood walks, field trips, training sessions and constructive games are necessary to the mental well-being of your companion as well as helpful in meeting daily exercise requirements.

Dogs with higher exercise requirements (young or very athletic dogs) would benefit from more rigorous activities, such as hiking, jogging, swimming, dog sports (agility, competition), or more frequent training and walking. Some dogs might benefit from play with other dogs.

Socialization

It is important to expose your new dog or puppy to the sights, sounds, people and animals he will be expected to interact with in his new life. After he has had a chance to settle in and become comfortable with his family and home environment, take him out and introduce him to new experiences slowly. Be sure to praise and reward him and make any new experience a positive one for him. Many local pet stores offer puppy socialization and basic dog training classes.

Health and Transition

Shelter to Home Transition

Living in a shelter can be stressful. The transition to living in a home will be a welcomed change! When they arrive in your home, your dog will learn to relax and feel safe. Their immune system – now that they feel safe and relaxed – will let its guard down. As a result, viruses already present in the dog's system may cause them to become ill. Most likely, this will happen within the first two weeks after adoption.

Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter examines all dogs when they arrive to determine overall health, however full medical exams are the responsibility of the adopter. Any pre-existing or chronic medical conditions that were evident upon the exam were explained to you when you adopted your dog. You should schedule a routine exam with the veterinarian of your choice within 10 days of adoption. The transition from shelter to home can cause dogs to fall ill and you should be on the lookout for the following symptoms, and contact a veterinarian for treatment:

- Diarrhea is a symptom of a wide variety of conditions. Diarrhea can be caused by stress or new food, but if your dog has diarrhea that persists for more than three days or has any traces of blood in it, please contact a veterinarian.
- Sneezing, coughing, and discharge from nose and/or eyes may be symptoms of an Upper Respiratory Infection. The first and most persistent symptoms will be sneezing and coughing. As the infection progresses, you may also see discharge from the nose and/or eyes. This discharge is likely to start off clear and then turn yellow or green.
- Lethargy and loss of appetite that persist for more than two days or are accompanied by diarrhea, sneezing, coughing and nasal or eye discharge could indicate an Upper Respiratory Infection.

Medical Records

You will receive a copy of all of the medical history we have for your dog, including every procedure we have performed here at CCAS. You should bring these records with you when you make your first exam appointment for your new dog, so that your veterinarian has a complete medical history. You will also receive a vaccination history (read more about vaccinations on the next page), a rabies certificate and tag, any medications your dog is still on, and a current Cuyahoga County dog license.

Post Adoption Care

The veterinarian staff and unit at CCAS is a shelter-medicine only practice – we do not see public clients. Although exams and procedures are done on-site, this service is provided as a courtesy to animals prior to adoption – CCAS is not responsible for the medical costs of caring for adopted animals. If your veterinarian finds a serious medical condition, please contact CCAS to discuss options with the dog.

What is Kennel Cough?

Kennel cough in dogs is highly contagious upper respiratory infection which can be caused by bacteria or a virus. The most common form of kennel cough is caused by the bacteria called *Bordetella bronchiseptica*. Frequently kennel cough is caused by a combination of both bacteria and virus. Other infections may come from parainfluenza virus, adenovirus and the canine distemper virus. The lining of the trachea and bronchi become inflamed and when air passes over them it results in an irritating cough.

How is Kennel Cough Transmitted?

Kennel cough is a highly contagious disease. It transmits to other dogs much the same way as a human cold transmits in humans through airborne organisms or dog to dog contact. Symptoms generally begin 3-10 days after exposure.

What are the Symptoms of Kennel Cough?

Kennel cough presents as a dry, hacking coarse cough, retching and gagging. It often sounds like your dog has got something caught in the back of his throat. They may also cough up white frothy material. The dog is usually quite well (apart from the cough) with a normal temperature and it usually engages in its normal activities. The dog seldom loses its appetite. Coughing can become worse on exertion and can continue day and night which can become very distressing to the dog's owner. The cough can be produced if you gently press the region of the throat over the trachea.

Complications

Be watchful of your dog developing a raised temperature, lethargy, loss of appetite, eye and nose discharge of coughing up green phlegm as it is sometimes possible that a secondary bacterial infection can lead to pneumonia.

Veterinary Care

In order to maintain your dog's health and well-being, it's important to keep them current on all of their vaccinations. It's also a good idea to have him examined by a veterinarian once a year. Usually, these two things can be done together, but we recommend you establish a relationship with a veterinarian and follow their specific recommendations for your new dog.



Heartworm Prevention

Talk to your veterinarian about heartworm prevention – your vet will be able to make recommendations based on the risk to your individual dog.

Flea/Tick Prevention

Keep your dog on monthly flea/tick prevention! Besides being an irritant for your dog, flea bites can cause hot spots and irritation. Some dogs have allergic reactions to fleas, which can cause hair loss and red, irritated skin. Fleas and ticks can also transmit other diseases such as tapeworms and tick borne illnesses. Be sure to thoroughly read the instructions for the topical flea treatment you use.

Rabies Vaccination

Prevent Rabies

Why vaccinate your dogs against rabies virus?

- To protect the health of your dog.
- Vaccinating your pet will help protect you and your family from the rabies virus.
- Raccoon-strain rabies is already in the state of Ohio
- Rabid bats have been found inside homes in Cuyahoga County.
- Rabies vaccinations are required by law in the jurisdiction of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.



Heartworm Vaccination

Prevention is easy!

Heartworm disease is a dangerous, but completely preventable infection where parasitic worms grow inside the chambers of your dog or cat's heart and large blood vessels. Left undetected, heartworm disease can become serious and even result in death as worms eventually block blood flow to the heart and lungs. That's why heartworm prevention and early detection are so important! The American Animal Hospital Association places the average cost of preventative for dogs at \$5-15 per month, and the cost of treating a dog with heartworm at \$1,400-\$2,000!

An important part of a complete heartworm prevention program is testing. All dogs should be tested for heartworm infection before starting a preventative program. Testing ensures that your pet is free of adult heartworms, and ready to start or continue on heartworm preventive medication. Follow your veterinarians' recommendations for a heartworm prevention plan!

Regular Blood Tests

- This ensures your dog is free from heartworms before he begins or continues on his preventive medication.
- Your veterinarian will advise you as to the frequency of regular blood tests.
- Contagious to dogs only.

Reduce Exposure to Mosquitos

- This means making your pet's environment less hospitable to mosquitoes, which in turn decreases the risk of your pet being infected with heartworm in the first place.

Preventative Medication

This means administering a heartworm preventive to your dog year round (according to American Heartworm Society guidelines).

- Prevention for dogs includes monthly oral preparations (like Iverhart Max, Heartgard products, Tri-Heart Plus or Sentinel)
- These medications are given in the form of a treat that dogs typically accept readily.
- Topical combination heartworm/flea/tick preventives (like Revolution, Advantage Multi, Heartgard, etc)

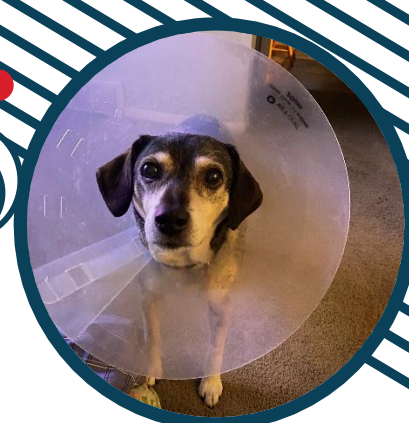
Heartworm prevention is safe, east and inexpensive compared to treatment. Talk to your veterinarian today about starting a prevention program for your pets!

Post Surgery Care

Your pet has undergone some degree of trauma following surgery. The following will help answer the most common questions that arise after these operations.

An animal's pain threshold is much higher than that of a human. Therefore, animals do not exhibit as much discomfort following surgery.

- Animals will often lick at the site of the incision. This is usually because of itching caused by being closely shaven. Occasionally it can be the result of irritation from the suture material. A restraint collar can also be used if needed.
- A small amount of hemorrhage will occasionally occur at the incision site. This happens because of blood pooling under the skin. When the animal moves, a drop or two will discharge through the sutures. If bleeding is in excess or continues for more than 24 hours, please notify your veterinarian.
- Occasionally a hard lump will appear at the site of the incision. This is often because of the body reacting to the suture material or can be a result of blood pooling under the skin. If it gets noticeably large, please contact the veterinarian.
- Each animal recovers from the anesthetic at a different rate. Some animals are back to normal within 24 hours while others may take as long as three or four days to recuperate. Your pet will not be discharged from the shelter if he or she is unable to walk out. However, some animals may still stagger slightly upon release. Your pet will recover from surgery faster if the convalescent time is spent at home.
- Keep the incision clean and dry for 10 days. Do NOT bathe your dog for 10 days. Please look at the incision once daily. There should be no discharge or foul odor coming from the incision. Slight swelling, redness or bruising is normal. Please refrain from applying any creams or ointments to the incision.
- Do NOT allow your dog to lick or scratch the incision, this can delay healing and cause infection. An E-Collar may be necessary to prevent licking which can be purchased at a local pet store. Some dogs react negatively to wearing an e-collar, please be aware of your dog's individual needs.
- Pain medication has been given to each and every animal. Do NOT give your animal any additional pain medication other than what is administered. Additional medication can be life threatening. Follow exact directions on the medication given.
- Do not feed your pet on the day of surgery. You may feed the following day but food should be limited to one-half the usual amount. On the next day you can resume your normal feeding schedule. Following surgery, water should be limited to very small amounts or ice cubes. You can give water freely on the following day. The stress of surgery and change in surroundings can cause diarrhea and/or vomiting. If these symptoms continue for more than 48 hours, contact a veterinarian.
- There are no sutures to be removed unless otherwise specified.
- Please restrict your pet's activities for at least 10 days. Keep your pet away from other animals and small children during recovery (24-72 hours). No running, jumping, playing, swimming or other strenuous activity. Keep your dog quiet. Dogs must be kept indoors where they can stay clean, dry and warm. No baths during the recovery period. Dogs must be walked on a leash.



Hazardous to Dogs

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR PET INGESTS SOMETHING HAZARDOUS

Don't panic. Rapid response is important, but panicking can interfere with the process of helping your pet.

Take 30 to 60 seconds to safely collect and have at hand any material involved. This may be of great benefit to your vet and/or toxicologists, as they determine what poison or poisons are involved. In the event that you need to take your pet to a local veterinarian, be sure to take the product's container with you. Also, collect in a sealable plastic bag any material your pet may have vomited or chewed.

If you witness your pet consuming material that you suspect might be toxic, do not hesitate to seek emergency assistance, even if you do not notice any adverse effects. Sometimes, even if poisoned, an animal may appear normal for several hours or for days after the incident.

Need help?

- Call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center - (888) 426-4435.
www.aspcapet-care/poison-control
- Call the Pet Poison Helpline – (855) 289-0358.
www.petpoisonhelpline.com



Crate & Confinement Training

Crate training your dog may take some time and work, but it is well worth the effort. When used properly, a crate will confine your dog to a safe, secure area when you are unable to watch them closely. Who is watching your dog while you are at work, school, out running errands, in the shower, cooking dinner, etc.? While they are confined to their crate, you can be sure that your dog is NOT relieving themselves on the carpet, chewing your belongings, digging in the yard...or doing a variety of other "jobs" that you don't want them to do! Once you crate train your dog and use the crate to get through the transitional period, you don't have to use it forever. A crate is a wonderful tool to use to limit your dog's ability to get into trouble while they are adjusting to your home and your rules. Once they know the rules, it is also a great tool to use during travel or for confinement during activities that might overwhelm them (disruptive home renovations, large dinner parties, or noisy playdates with neighborhood children).

Size & Time: A crate for an adult dog should be large enough for them to comfortably stand up, turn around and lay down in. Crates come in a variety of durable materials, including hard plastic and wire. Using the crate, you can confine your new dog and ensure her safety and well-being for up to 5 hours. Small dogs and puppies under six months of age aren't able to control themselves for quite as long as an adult dog, so you should make arrangements to come home or have a friend stop by to give them a potty break. Very young puppies (under three months of age) can be crate trained, but they require more frequent potty breaks to allow for their tiny bladders. A good rule of thumb for determining the maximum time for young puppies is Age in Months + 2 hours.



How To Crate Train: Begin to get your new dog used to the crate right away. Put it in an area of your home where the family spends a lot of time, such as the living room. Put a soft towel or blanket inside. Bring them over to the open crate on leash and attempt to lure them inside with some high value treats or a toy. Don't force them to enter! If they don't want to go all the way in at first, keep tossing treats or toys inside until they are willing to enter on their own.

Your dog's experiences with the crate should be all positive, so remember to reward for staying inside the crate quietly. You can close the door to confine them and continue to pass treats through the bars of the crate while they remain calm and quiet. You can also give appropriate chew materials (sturdy rubber toys or bones that can't break down to choke on) while in the crate. Covering the crate with a blanket or towel (especially at night time) might also help your dog view their crate as a safe, cozy, den-like retreat.

Common Behaviors and Concerns

BITING: This is, first and foremost, a defense response. A dog may bite when frightened or as a means of protecting their territory. Never attempt to remove or relocate a food dish while a dog is eating. Avoid touching your dog's surgical, injured or sore spots as the dog may bite out of pain.

Never leave small children unattended with a new dog!

After your dog has learned to trust you and rely on you as his leader, the bite reflex will disappear. Never, even in play, allow your dog to "mouth" your hand even gently. Correct this behavior immediately with a loud "NO," and stop play immediately. Separate the dog from you or any attention completely by taking him into a separate room or area.



REMEMBER that aggression breeds aggression. Studies have shown that when you respond to biting or other "bullying" behavior by inflicting pain the dog's temperament problem will escalate. Unfortunately, many dog trainers still resort to "old school" techniques. "Scruffing" (grabbing the scruff or neck of the dog and shaking), squeezing the muzzle, "hanging" (pulling the dog off the ground by the collar or leash), "pinning" (fighting the dog to the ground on his back) and "choking" (controlling by jerking hard on the leash) are inhumane, and although the dog may listen to you because you may hurt it, the dog will probably not behave for anyone else. Your dog will do as you ask because it trusts you, loves you and has formed a bond with you. Teaching him by making him afraid of you will feed an aggressive tendency and increase the likelihood of a retaliatory bite.



Common Behaviors and Concerns

Chewing, jumping up, barking and biting are natural behaviors for a dog. You must be consistent. You can then teach your dog that their role is to listen to you and that you will designate what is acceptable behavior. Be consistent, remain in control and confident.

You should be the one to initiate attention and play periods. When your dog begins to “pester” you, ignore him several times. By doing so, you will be the one to initiate the play or affection.

Most importantly, **BE CONSISTENT!**

Unacceptable behavior must always be unacceptable. Your dog will continue a behavior as long as you give in, even once! An example of this is giving your dog scraps while eating dinner, even once, has taught your dog that bothering you while eating is acceptable. Once you approve an unacceptable behavior, training to make that behavior unacceptable is ten times as difficult.

CHEWING: Chewing is a normal and necessary behavior to promote healthy teeth and gums. All dogs should have their own chew toys. All dogs, especially puppies, need to chew. You can control what they chew. Never let a dog or puppy chew anything that belongs to you. If you give your dog something that belongs to you or one of your family members, you have taught your dog that your belongings are acceptable for gnawing. Your dog cannot distinguish a shoe that is fine to chew from one that is not permissible to chew. Since dogs must chew, be sure to provide him/her with something as a substitute for your belongings, until the dog has learned what is his/hers and what is yours, remove your belongings from reach much as you would for a crawling child. If the dog has nothing of its own, he will resort to your furniture, woodwork, rugs, etc. Boredom will cause excessive chewing. If you do not spend enough time with your dog, or if he does not receive sufficient exercise, your dog may resort to chewing at his own limbs. This is a nervous condition not uncommon with dogs lacking attention. We recommend you supervise your dog when he has a chew toy or bone.

RECOMMENDED CHEWING PRODUCTS: Regular meat bones are not recommended, as they can splinter and cause your dog to choke. Likewise, small balls and other toys can be swallowed and become lodged in the throat. Rawhide bones or chips are not recommended for larger dogs or enthusiastic chewers as pieces can get caught in the throat or intestines when swallowed. Latex toys are less likely to tear than those made of rubber. Although, “Kong” products provide a very durable rubber toy that dogs enjoy chewing. “Greenies” or “Dentastix” pet products have fibers that actually clean the teeth. For a small investment, these products prove to be the safest and longest lasting and are highly recommended by our staff. For “teething” puppies, whole, cold, raw carrots are excellent.

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

Solution:

Ignore the dog, stand still, fold your arms, and look away. The second your dog’s feet remain on the floor, acknowledge and greet them. If they jump up again, immediately stand still, fold arms and look away. Repeat every time the dog jumps.

NOTE: Your family and friends should all follow this training plan as it needs to be consistent!

- Teach your dog to sit to be greeted and reward quickly before they jump again. If they jump, repeat the above.
- Keep them on a leash, so you can prevent from jumping on guests.

BARKING: Your dog barks when excited, to warn off intruders (including, sometimes, small insects), and simply to let you know how they feel. It is your dog’s only means of communication. Teaching your dog not to bark is the same as expecting a baby not to cry or a person not to talk. You can teach a dog when it is appropriate to bark, and when to stop barking. While you may allow your dog to bark as a warning against intruders, you must also let them know when to stop with a simple “ok” or “that’s enough.” Every bark means something. If you ignore your dog’s barking, they **WILL** continue barking, their only means of communication. Your dog learns your language; you must also learn theirs. You must pay attention to their barking, as different tones and levels mean different things, just as when a baby cries, you can distinguish to some extent, why. Acknowledge your dog’s bark, once they know you understand and respond, they’ll stop.



Housetraining 101

It is best to assume the dog you are adopting is not housetrained. The thought of housetraining an adult dog from scratch can be daunting, however being prepared for a dog and the use of the crate and tether will drastically cut down on accidents your dog is able to have in your home.

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

Here are some other useful tips to get you and your dog on the right track:

Dog Proof: If you have to be away from the home, and there is no one else who can let your dog out you should set up a dog-safe room (bathrooms or laundry rooms with a door work well) where there are no items your dog can harm himself on or destroy. It is ideal if this room has an easy-to-clean floor and not carpet. Small spaces are less effective for housebreaking than crates are but choose the method that will work best for your household, dog, and situation.

Take your dog out: Unfortunately, dogs do not inherently know that “outside” means potty area. Often times, many dogs that have been in a shelter have had no real introduction to housetraining. Accompanying your dog on his bathroom breaks will allow you to make certain that he is relieving himself.

Pee First, Play Later! This is an often forgotten, yet common-sense, housebreaking tip that will serve you well whether you are the proud new parent of a puppy or adult dog. When it’s time for your dog to take his potty break, do not take him out back and start playing fetch! He needs to learn that fun time happens after he potties; that it’s part of his reward for going outside to go. If fun time happens first then he will quickly figure out that he’d better hold it for as long as he can to keep play time going. This is also true for walks – If you make a habit of turning around post-potty, he will learn to not potty until he’s ready for the walk to be over.

PICK A SPOT: Choose one spot in your backyard, outside your door, or wherever it is you want you to designate as your dog’s “bathroom spot.” Continually take your dog to this spot and give him the chance to go potty. If he is able to smell his scent in this area, he is more likely to potty there in the future. Remember to consider a spot that is convenient to both you and the dog, regardless of weather.

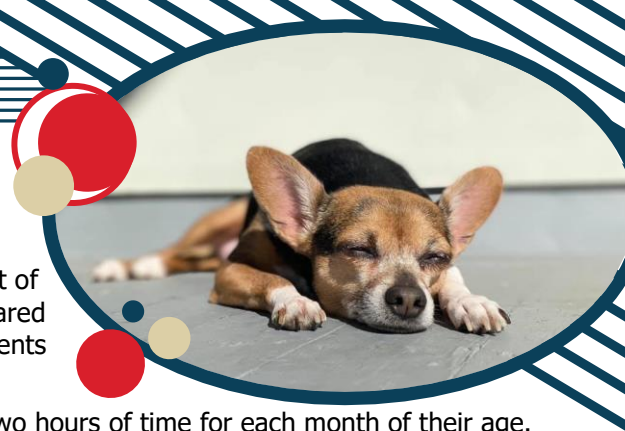
Reward: When your dog does go to the bathroom in this area, reinforce this behavior by giving him a high value reward – praise, treats, or a favorite toy. This will teach your dog that going to the bathroom outside is a lot of fun, and he is more likely to repeat this behavior in the future. However, if your dog has an accident in the house, which is very likely, ignore it. Dogs cannot make the connection between what happened just now, and what happened five seconds ago. Yelling, swatting, or other punishments will just confuse your dog and make him afraid to go to the bathroom in front of you, which makes housetraining very difficult. Dogs that are punished for going in the house will often times begin to go in remote areas of the house to avoid punishment.

Good Timing: Take your new dog out frequently. Make sure to give them potty breaks after play sessions, naps and meals and upon first arriving home. These are specific times a dog needs to “go” are stimulated. Remember to feed your dog at consistent times – the more on-schedule a dog is fed, the more reliable his bathroom usage will be.



Be Consistent. We can’t say this enough! The more consistent you are able to be, the more quickly your dog will learn. Stick with your training plan for housebreaking, and don’t be too anxious to let him off the leash in the house – wait until good habits are established and he is going potty outside on a regular basis.

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



Still looking for more information?
Check out our website at cuyahogadogs.com!