

Your New Dog

Settling In: Do's

- Provide a “shutdown” period by limiting new visitors or adventures. Give them time to get to know their new home, bond with family, and adjust to their new environment and schedule. Your adopted dog may need time to decompress and transition from shelter life to home life.
- Show your new dog around. Show them where to potty, where their water bowl and bed are, and praise them for everything they do that you like.
- Take your dog outside frequently to the designated potty area. If your dog does not go to the bathroom, do not give them full run of your house when you return inside. They may have an accident. Instead, if they do not eliminate outside, keep them on leash in the house or confine them to a safe place that they are comfortable in, then after 15-20 minutes take them back outside. Praise and reward them for going potty outside.
- Reward good behavior with praise, small food treats, toys, and activities your dog enjoys.
- If your dog knows “sit”, have them “sit” for the many of the things they want (doors opening to go outside, waiting for the leash, before you throw the ball, etc.) If they do not, just wait for a calm moment when they are standing nicely and not jumping up, etc., and reward the calm behavior before continuing with the activity.
- Use a regular “flat buckle” collar or harness and keep the leash on, even in the house at first. This will aid in moving them off surfaces if they jump up (the couch, the kitchen table), out of the kitchen, or off guests, etc.
- During mealtimes, have them first sit and wait to build impulse control. Once they have begun eating, move away from the dish and do not disturb them. You can also try hand feeding as a great way to bond with your new dog.
- Supervise **every** interaction with children.
- If the dog is crate trained, use the crate for calm confinement when you cannot supervise or must leave the house. Provide the dog with something to chew on such as a stuffed Kong or other safe dog toy. This will help them learn that the crate is wonderful place to be. Never force the dog into the crate or use it as a punishment.
- Have them sleep in the crate at night or in a secured area, to prevent unwanted house soiling or chewing. See tips on pages 7-8 or contact a trainer for advice on how to begin crate training.
- Go for long, on-leash walks. Bring along tiny, delicious food treats to reward your dog for polite behaviors (walking on loose lead, paying attention to you, being calm as other dogs or people walk by, etc.).
- Sign up for a training class or consult. See a list of local trainers on our website under “Behavior & Training” on the “Resources” tab <https://safehavenhumane.org/behavior-training-resources/>.

Settling In: Don'ts

- Don't assume your new dog will have perfect house manners. Prevent unwanted behaviors, such as stealing from the counter tops, by removing tempting food items from the counter when the dog is unattended. Be sure to monitor your dog when they are around food. A trainer can help teach a solid 'leave-it' cue.
- Do not allow children to disturb your dog while they are eating or when they have a bone, Kong, or other chew item.
- Don't allow too much freedom in the home too soon as this may lead to house soiling and other problems. Baby gates and crates are a great way to ease your dog into a new environment. As dogs adjust, you can increase their space and freedom.
- Don't allow too much freedom in the backyard right away as digging, unwanted barking, and other destructive behaviors may occur. When your dog is outside, monitor them to make sure they are unable to slip out of any gaps in the fence or able to climb out.
- Don't overwhelm your dog by having lots of people over right away. Give them time to settle in. When new people do arrive, be ready with your dog on leash or behind a baby gate to prevent unwanted jumping. Be sure to reward for polite behaviors.
- Don't physically force your dog to perform a behavior as this can be frightening or painful. Use your leash and/or treats to lead or lure them where you need them to go.

- Your new dog may still be recovering from spay/neuter surgery. It is important to follow all post-operative instructions and wait at least 10-14 days before bathing.
- Do not ignore body language. If your dog shows signs of discomfort such as lip licking, yawning, whale eye (seeing the whites of your dog's eyes), lifting one paw off the ground, etc. while interacting with a person, give them space, stop petting, etc. A trainer can help you identify other signs of stress and what you can do when you see them.

Preparing Your Home

- Prepare a safe room where the dog can be left alone.
- Buy or borrow a crate and/or exercise pen.
- Remove breakable objects, ensure electrical wiring is safely covered or out of reach.
- Put away shoes, kids' toys, laundry, and other important belongings.
- Remove trash cans, secure them inside cabinets, or invest in a trash can with a lid. Remove food from counters if your dog is unattended.
- Move cat food and litter boxes out of the dog's reach.
- Are your fences and gates secure? Is the ground free of sharp objects and poisonous plants?

Consider investing in the following supplies. They can all be purchased at SafeHaven Humane Society.

- **Food:** SafeHaven encourages feeding a high-quality dry kibble. Talk with your veterinarian about diet requirements. Puppies under 1 year should eat a puppy-specific food.
- **Dishes:** Ceramic or stainless steel are preferred because they are more easily disinfected than plastic. Dogs are also less likely to chew these. You can also purchase or make (DIY) fun 'puzzle feeders' to provide enrichment and mental stimulation during mealtimes.
- **Bed:** Your dog needs a soft, dry, clean place to lie down. Some dogs and puppies may chew on bedding, so monitoring is essential in the beginning.
- **Toys:** Choose the right size toys for your dog. We highly recommend Kongs as a great enrichment toy for dogs.
- **Grooming:** Choose the appropriate tools for your dog's coat.
- **Collar/Leash:** A flat collar that the dog can always wear safely. A martingale collar is ideal for a dog that may become frightened on a walk and try to

slip out of the collar. A front-clip harness is a good option for strong pullers. Harnesses (back or front-clip) are preferred for small dogs. A leash should be 4'-6' long.

- **Enzyme-based cleaner:** These cleaners help with potty accidents by removing all residual odors from accident sites.

The Ride Home

We recommend your new dog ride home in a crate or secured in your car's back seat. Never put a dog in the back of an open pickup truck.

- If you have your current dog with you, keep the dogs separated on the journey home from the shelter.
- Leave the leash attached to the dog's collar.
- Do not allow children to excite the dog.
- Do not give the dog a long-lasting treat or stuffed Kong in the car.
- Take the dog directly home. Do not stop on the way home for supplies or to visit friends.
- If the dog vomits, simply clean it up without punishing the dog.
- Do not leave the dog alone in the car.
- Before you open the door, get hold of the leash so the dog cannot bolt.

On Arrival Home

- Take your dog on the leash to the area that you want them to go potty. Do not play with them until they go. Praise them for using the correct area and reward with a treat.
- Act very low key and do not excite your dog with play. Give them time to take in the surroundings.
- As they are exploring their new home, watch your dog carefully. If they attempt to urinate inside, quickly escort them to the yard. When they use the correct area, provide lots of praise and treats.
- Keep doors closed to areas your dog is not allowed.

- Being calm and consistent the first few days will help your dog settle in with minimal stress.
- Initially, do not leave your new dog with the run of the house. As they become more mature and learn, you can give them more freedom.

Your New Dog's Health

Dogs and puppies need time to adjust to their new homes and surroundings. The stress of the change in environment can weaken a dog's immune system and make them more susceptible to illness. In the first few weeks following adoption, monitor closely for the following:

Kennel Cough (CIRD):

Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease Complex (CIRD), or "kennel cough", is one of the most prevalent infectious diseases in dogs. All SafeHaven dogs are vaccinated with the Bordetella and DA2PP vaccines, which provide protection against some causes of kennel cough, before they are available for adoption. However, there are many more causes of CIRD that are both bacterial and viral. Additionally, a dog may have already been exposed to a CIRD-causing pathogen(s) or exposed within the time before the vaccine has become protective. Potential adopters who bring their own dogs for a meet and greet at the shelter should be aware that their pet possibly may be exposed to kennel cough.

The following can all be signs of kennel cough:

- A dry, hacking cough (often sounds as if something is 'caught in the throat')
- Retching or gagging (often producing clear, foamy saliva)
- Nasal discharge
- Sneezing
- Lethargy

Most dogs with kennel cough do not have a fever and, apart from the cough, can appear healthy and energetic. If your newly adopted dog (within 10 days of adoption) has a fever, is less active than usual, has decreased appetite, discharge from the eyes or nose, or difficulty breathing, please contact SafeHaven's medical

department immediately at (541) 928-2789 ext. 117 as a more serious problem may be present.

CIRD is common and contagious, but most dogs recover in 1-2 weeks without complications. However, less common cases can cause high fever and pneumonia that may be life-threatening if not recognized and treated appropriately. We always recommend that all newly adopted dogs be seen by a vet within a week of leaving the shelter.

Parvovirus

At SafeHaven all incoming puppies are vaccinated for the most common canine diseases immediately upon arrival. One virus that primarily targets puppies less than 6 months old is the canine parvovirus. Parvovirus infection causes vomiting and diarrhea which is often bloody. Puppies are lethargic and reluctant to eat. This disease progresses quickly and can be fatal. If you notice the above symptoms in your newly adopted puppy (within 10 days of adoption), please contact SafeHaven's medical department immediately at (541) 928-2789 ext. 117. If your puppy is diagnosed with parvo by another veterinarian, please contact our medical department immediately. This is important so that we can notify adopters of any littermates. Note: if your puppy shows concerning symptoms after hours, please contact an emergency vet for immediate care.

Until your puppy receives a full series of the DA2PP vaccine following the schedule your veterinarian recommends, it is important to limit exposure to areas where other dogs frequent, such as dog parks, pet stores, and public spaces.

Introducing your New Dog to Other Pets

Dog to Dog Introductions

You are off to a good start as the dogs already met at the shelter, but before you go inside, take a short walk with your dogs (no dog parks) to help reduce stress. Arguments often occur when entering territory, going through doors or gates, in tight spaces, around food, toys, beds, games and over your attention. Fights can be avoided by giving the dogs time and space to get to know each other calmly. Keep the leash on the new dog

and control their movements, being mindful not to keep tension on the leash during interactions as this can increase stress. Do not give either dog attention until both are quiet and well behaved. It can help to increase praise to your current dog whenever the new dog approaches.

Do not feed dogs next to each other. Separate the dogs when giving high value items such as bones or long-lasting food treats, as this can lead to unwanted resource guarding. Remember that food guarding is a normal dog behavior, although not always appropriate, and there are some dogs that may never be able to eat together safely.

Be sure to separate dogs when you are not home or unable to supervise until they are comfortable with each other.

Avoid playing high arousal games with multiple dogs at the same time or in the same space. Tug-of-war or a fast game of fetch are fun and can still be played but be mindful about when and where you play them.

Fights: If a fight ever occurs between dogs, **do not** grab at the dogs as you may get bitten by mistake. Instead shake a shaker can filled with pennies, spray them with water, startle them with an air horn, or throw a blanket between them. Most fights look scary but rarely result in serious injury, so keep calm, do not yell as this can intensify the fight, and work to break them up safely.

Dog to Cat Introductions

Be prepared before the dog comes home. Make sure the dog does not have access to the cat's food, water, and litter box.

When introducing your new dog to your cat, it is best to have them separated by a baby gate with the dog on a leash. Go slow and do not force them together as your cat may become frightened and defensive. Allow your cat access to perches or other elevated places that make them feel safe. This will help the cat feel less threatened. If your cat has never met a dog, or has had bad experiences with dogs, consider investing in cat appeasing pheromone diffusers or collars which can help alleviate feline stress.

It may take several days or weeks for your cat to feel comfortable interacting with your new dog. Be patient. When they are ready, they may sniff through the gate. Be sure to reinforce your dog and cat with treats and praise for polite behavior.

When they are together for the first time it is wise to keep the leash on your dog as a "drag line". That way you can intervene quickly if necessary. It is not unusual for cats to hiss and growl when approached by a new dog. Cats take time to adjust to changes. If your cat hides from your new dog, do not worry. Make sure the cat has a private place not accessible to the dog where they have access to food, water, litter box, and feel safe.

Never allow the dog to chase the cat, even in play, as this situation can easily get out of control. Be sure not to allow your dog to chase or corner the cat or vice versa. If the initial interaction goes poorly, move the dog away and allow time for adjustment.

If there is ever a fight between your dog and cat, interrupt by spraying them with water or throw a towel or blanket between them. Make sure the cat has an escape route or can leap to a high place.

Dog to Caged Pet Introductions

It is recommended to keep caged pets out of the reach of your dog. Introductions between your dog and small pet, if necessary, should be done with two people. One person holding the dog's leash and the other handling the small pet. Any introduction to small animals must be monitored with extreme care. Most small pets become frightened around dogs and can easily become a target of prey. Always be present and keep visits short.

Children & Dogs

SUPERVISE ALL INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN AND ANIMALS

Because children often squeal, run, and initiate play with dogs, they can easily become a target to mouth and jump up on. Very young children are also incapable of handling dogs with proper gentleness, often resulting in squeezing, hugging, or pulling.

If a dog becomes overly aroused and rowdy, teach the children to stand still “like a tree”, fold arms and hide hands, then walk away slowly and calmly. Teach your children how to interact with dogs:

- Practice Pat-Pet-Pause with young children
 - Pat-pat your leg to invite a dog to you.
 - Pet-slowly and gently on the sides and shoulder of the dog.
 - Pause-stop petting to see if the dog would like to interact with you further. Continue petting only if the dog initiates further interactions.
- Instruct children to not look directly into a dog’s eyes.
- Instruct children to not hug, kiss, or lay on a dog.
- Instruct children to never approach or touch a strange dog or to disturb a dog who is eating, chewing, or sleeping.
- Instruct children to keep their faces away from dogs.

Comfortable dog body language is loose, wiggly, and relaxed with the dog often leaning into the child, soliciting more attention. **Look for these warning signs that a dog is becoming anxious or defensive during an interaction with a child:**

- They are not soliciting attention but simply tolerating the interaction
- They are licking their lips
- They are standing stiffly or freeze
- They are lifting one foot or begin sniffing
- They are looking sideways at the child
- They are trying to move away
- They are showing the whites of their eyes
- Their expression is hard
- They growl

Intervene immediately if you see this body language. Remember that growling is a warning sign prior to snapping or biting. Respect and heed it. If growling doesn’t work, the dog may escalate. Do not punish the dog for growling (we don’t want them to skip this warning step and immediately escalate to a snap or bite).

Intervene if your child climbs on, attempts to ride, pulls ears/tails/jowls, or otherwise pokes and prods the dog. Do not marvel that your dog tolerates these antics. There will be a point when they have had enough, and if you do nothing, the situation can escalate to a bite.

Most importantly, teach children: Never run from a dog, they may chase!

If a dog does run up to you, freeze with your arms folded or by your sides. Once the dog loses interest, walk away slowly, and find an adult.

Respect your dog and encourage others to do the same. Your new pet is your friend and companion. Forcibly moving, hitting, or pinning them down can lead to much larger problems including escalating fear and aggression. SafeHaven endorses positive reinforcement and reward-based training. We believe in teaching and rewarding your pet for desirable behavior (going potty outside) and redirecting undesirable behaviors to appropriate ones (teaching to sit politely when greeting new people instead of excitedly jumping).

Developing Routine and Structure with Your New Dog

The whole family should use the same positive training methods for your new pet. Your new dog will be looking to you for clear guidance and gentle leadership to guide behavior.

Provide clear rules and guidelines. There is never a need to physically reprimand your pet. Time outs, ending the game, and removing rewards are suitable punishments for a dog that is learning boundaries.

- Go slowly.
- Introduce new surroundings and routines gradually.
- Feed on a regular schedule and teach your dog to sit and wait before feeding.
- Do not disturb your dog while eating.

Catch your dog doing something right (lying on their bed, chewing their own toys, sitting for attention, etc.) and reward with affection, attention, play, or treats.

Dogs that get plenty of mental and physical exercise and enrichment are happier, healthier, and less likely to have behavior issues.

Remember, a fulfilled dog is a good dog! Engaging your dog's mind and body with mental and physical enrichment is key. Your dog will not exercise themselves, so leaving them in your yard all day just won't work. Take your dog for walks with plenty of time for sniffing, hide treats in the backyard to hunt for, play fetch and tug, play with a flirt pole, teach your dog new tricks, etc. Don't substitute exercise for good manners, they still will need to be polite when playing.

Dogs need to use their brains as well as their muscles; invest in enrichment toys to keep your dog thinking. Recommended toys include:

- Kongs stuffed with kibble, canned dog food, peanut butter, etc. Throw stuffed Kongs in the freezer for longer-lasting fun.
- Kong Wobbler
- Buster Cubes

As with people, dogs develop new behaviors and change with age. You should be prepared to continue your dog's training and guidance throughout their life. Teach and train with patience and rewards. The results will be amazing!

Behavior & Training

Understanding your dog's behavior and learning how dogs think will make life with your new pet happier and easier. Positive reinforcement, also known as reward-based training, is proven to be far more effective in creating a well-adjusted, well-mannered dog than punishment-focused, outdated methods.

- SafeHaven Humane Society recommends all new dogs/puppies and their family members attend a basic training course to solidify the loving bond and to help them understand what is expected of them. Find information about how to choose a trainer and a list of local trainers on the SafeHaven website under "Behavior & Training" on the "Resources" tab <https://safehavenhumane.org/behavior-training-resources/>.

Puppies

The experiences your puppy has, or doesn't have, will shape them for the rest of their life. Introduce your puppy to new experiences gradually and make sure these experiences are positive and not overwhelming.

Puppies may whine a lot their first few days in their new home. Remain calm; this phase will pass as your puppy gains confidence and feels secure.

Begin teaching your puppy basic manners as soon as you get home. Take advantage of your daily routine; when feeding, ask the puppy to come, sit and wait until you give the okay to eat. Ask them to sit or wait before letting out of the crate, going through doors, etc.

Teach your puppy to be gentle with their mouth. If your puppy mouths you, say "ouch" and ignore them for a moment or leave the room. Do not attempt to correct mouthing with physical punishment, such as grabbing your puppy's muzzle, because this may intensify the behavior.

Practice touching your puppy on their paws, tail, ears, etc., and reward relaxed behavior with treats and kind, calm praise. Regularly groom your puppy, wipe their feet off, and practice toweling them off to prepare for wet weather months.

Don't be afraid to play tug-of-war with your puppy. There is a common myth saying this leads to aggressive behaviors when tug-of-war is a great way to build impulse control. Teach the following rules if you are going to play tug-of-war.

1. Cue your puppy to sit in front of you.
2. Reward your puppy for staying still while the tug toy is presented.
3. Cue your puppy to play by giving a release word such as "okay!"
4. Gently play with your puppy for 30 seconds or so.
5. Stop tugging the toy and drop several treats on ground in front of him. Eventually use the cue "drop-it" or "give" before trading the treats for the toy.
6. Re-cue them to sit and resume the game.

7. Immediately end the game if the puppy gets rowdy. This teaches that there are rules to follow if they want to play the game.

House Training

Puppies

Most puppies can control their bladders for approximately one hour per month of their age. In other words, a three-month-old puppy cannot be expected to last more than three hours without relieving themselves. The average puppy will typically defecate 10-20 minutes after eating.

Consistency and routine are key. If you can be at home with your puppy, take them out on-leash to eliminate every few hours, after every nap, after every play session, before confinement, and any time they signal (circling, sniffing, pacing). Give them a word to associate with the action and do not play or interact until they go.

Praise and reward your dog for eliminating outside. If they do not eliminate after a few minutes, take them back inside and confine them for 15 minutes, then take them out again. Repeat this until they go potty. If you miss the signals but you catch your puppy eliminating, immediately take them outside, praising when they go in the appropriate place.

DO NOT punish your dog or rub their nose in any errors as this does not teach proper elimination habits or control and can cause your dog to be fearful of eliminating when around you.

If you must leave your puppy for longer periods (over three hours), try confining them to a puppy-proofed area or an exercise pen. Having a friend or family member come over to take them outside while you are away is ideal.

- Leave the door off the crate; place the crate close to their food and water dishes.
- The puppy should sleep in the crate and get up to eliminate on a hard surface floor which is easy to clean and sterilize.
- When you arrive home DO NOT punish your puppy for eliminating on the floor. This teaches the puppy nothing except to fear your return!

- When you are home, be diligent about taking them outside to eliminate and use lots of praise.

REMEMBER:

Be patient. Young puppies have limited control of their bladders and short memories. Some learn more quickly than others.

Adult Dogs

Even if your adult dog was already previously potty trained, transitioning to a new home and routine can be stressful and challenging. Remember that a new dog is not aware of what you want and expect from them until you teach them. It can take time to learn and acclimate, so anticipate some accidents at first.

When initially coming home, try to offer frequent bathroom breaks. Take your dog outside to eliminate when you first arrive home, first thing in the morning, before confinement (if you go out), immediately after confinement, after meals, just before you go to bed, and any time they signal a need to go. Establish a consistent routine and take your dog out at the same times every day. Praise and reward your dog for going potty outside.

If your dog, no matter what age, continues to eliminate in the house when you are at home, attach a leash to their harness or collar and keep hold of them. This way you can watch your dog and take them outside when they begin to show signs of needing to eliminate like sniffing or circling. Always be sure to consult your vet to rule out possible medical issues that could be the source of the problem.

Fearful and Excitement Urination

Some dogs urinate when they feel threatened or upon greeting people and playtime. This is most common in female dogs, shy dogs, or those that are easily excited.

- Do not punish your dog, as this makes matters worse.
- Instruct guests not to pet the dog right away as the dog may eliminate from excitement.

- Ignore the dog when you come in from an outing until they are calm and settled.
- Build confidence through practicing basic manners, free shaping, and agility games.
- As your dog's confidence grows, the problem should lessen and eventually stop.
- Take your dog to the vet to rule out medical reasons for the behavior.

Methods That Do Not Work – Please Avoid

- Hitting or punishing your dog
- Pushing the dog's nose in accidents
- Shouting at or scolding your dog

These methods lead to your dog being more worried, making the urination worse.

Cleaning

When cleaning up an accident, use an enzyme-based cleaner to effectively remove all odors. Dogs are attracted to the scent of a soiled area, so the odor must be eliminated.

Crate Training

Crates are an excellent choice for most puppies and adult dogs as they keep the pet and your belongings safe when you are not able to supervise. They aid in potty training because a dog will not want to soil their sleeping area. Select a crate big enough to allow the puppy/dog to stand up and turn around and stretch out when lying down.

Why Use a Crate?

- To provide your dog with a safe and comfortable resting spot.
- To help calm and nurture your dog in their new environment.
- As a potty-training aid.
- As a safe way to travel in the car.
- For airline travel.
- Good in hotels where pets are allowed.
- As a recovery room from illness or surgery.
- As a sanctuary when things get hectic.
- In some mild cases, it can be helpful for anxiety to help prevent destructive chewing.

- To protect your pet from children who cannot act appropriately around dogs.

Crate Do's and Don'ts

DO'S

- Make the crate a positive place.
- Use treats and toys to lead the dog into the crate.
- Feed the dog meals in the crate at first.
- Leave the door open initially.
- Hide treats in the crate.
- Place a clean, soft bed in the crate.
- Place a shirt with your scent on it in the crate if desired.
- Encourage your dog to sleep in their crate.
- Praise and reward them when inside the crate.
- Exercise before crating – a tired dog will relax and sleep.
- Stay close when you first close the door.
- Teach your dog to “wait” before coming out.

DON'TS:

- Force a dog or puppy into a crate.
- Use the crate for punishment.
- Keep the crate in an isolated area.
- Leave your dog in their crate for more than six hours.
- Talk to or let them out when whining.
- Choose a crate that is too large. If your dog can eliminate in one corner and sleep in another, the crate will not help teach good potty habits.
- Choose a crate that is too small. Your dog should be able to sit up and turn around. For a growing puppy you may wish to choose a larger crate and initially block off part of the space. As the dog gets larger, you can remove the divider.
- Crate only when leaving.

Remember, the crate should never take away from the contact and socialization that your dog needs from you and your family. The dog needs to spend much more time out of the crate than in.

If your dog shows signs of moderate to severe separation anxiety when crated or left unattended, it is best to consult with a professional. Symptoms may

include causing harm to oneself, destructive behaviors, excessive drooling, and more.

Chewing

Dogs explore the world with their mouths. Chewing is a normal and necessary behavior to promote healthy teeth and gums. Chewing can be directed to appropriate items so that your dog is not destroying items you value.

- All dogs should have their own chew toys. Rotating toys can help keep them novel to the dog.
- Avoid cooked bones, poultry bones, and rib bones as they tend to splinter and cause choking or intestinal problems.
- Be sure to supervise your dog with any new chew toys/bones.
- Show your dog the appropriate chew toy and make a big fuss over it. Praise your dog when they take the toy. Sometimes smearing a little peanut butter or cream cheese on the toy can make it more appealing.
- If your dog tries to chew on inappropriate items, distract them and give them an appropriate toy. Consult a trainer or view online resources to learn how to teach “leave-it” and “drop-it” so you can trade an unsuitable chewy for an appropriate one. Praise your dog and play with them briefly when they chew the correct item.
- Prepare your home by putting away items you value and do not leave tempting items such as shoes and clothing on the floor.
- Prepare a puppy-proof room or crate, so your puppy/dog does not have access to unsuitable chew items when you can’t supervise them.
- Bitter tasting (but safe) substances such as “Bitter Apple” can be sprayed on objects and may discourage chewing.
- Remember to reward desired behavior.

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 for staying calm. If they jump, repeat the above.
- Keep your dog on a leash so you can prevent them from jumping on guests until they are consistently not jumping.

Barking

Dogs bark to alert to sudden changes in the environment, because they are lonely, bored, or anxious and seeking attention, or because they are being teased by an outside influence (i.e., squirrels).

Solution:

- Keep your dog inside your home when you are not there.
- Leave on the radio or TV to mask outside noises.
- Ignore your dog if they are barking for attention. Consistently reward the silent pauses with your attention. Your dog will learn that they are not rewarded for barking and will stop.

Contact a trainer for help if your dog appears anxious or stressed or if the barking does not subside. Find information about how to choose a trainer and a list of local trainers on the on the SafeHaven website under “Behavior & Training” on the “Resources” tab <https://safehavenhumane.org/behavior-training-resources/>.

Digging

Usually, dogs dig because they are under-enriched, bored, or left outside for too long. However, digging is a normal activity for dogs, particularly for certain hounds and terriers.

Solution:

- Control digging by spending more time with your dog, giving them plenty of exercise, keeping them indoors, and providing them with toys.
- Direct the behavior by designating an area in the yard where it is acceptable for your dog to dig.
- You can make your dog a sandbox where they are allowed to dig while supervised.
- You can also place the dog's feces in the spot where they like to dig and cover it.

Bolting Through Doors/Gates

Bolting can be a very serious problem that may show up at your home in the first few days before your new dog realizes they live with you!

Solutions:

- In the beginning, put your new dog on leash before opening the door, even if you are only going into your fenced yard. This extra control will teach and guide your dog to be calm and learn boundaries.
- Teach your dog to "wait" at every door or gate until you release them to go through.
- If your dog escapes, don't run directly after them as this can often be seen as a game, and may cause them to run away faster! Instead, try turning around, calling them happily and running away at an angle and the dog may turn around and chase you safely home. Then if your dog approaches you, try crouching down and offering a cookie to lure them to you. Talk in a "happy" voice to attract them. You may also try laying down on the ground or crinkling a food bag and pretending to eat delicious food.
- Remember, some breeds are more likely to roam than others.

Separation Anxiety/Isolation Distress

Some dogs become stressed and anxious when left alone. Help ease stress by:

- Giving your dog something to do to occupy their time such as an enriching toy, something to chew on, or a stuffed Kong.

- Keep a radio on. Studies show that classical music, reggae, and soft rock can help alleviate stress.
- Initially keep departures brief and do not make a fuss out of coming or going.
- Prevent your dog from having complete access to the home as some dogs with separation anxiety/isolation distress may begin to chew or eliminate. Instead, use a crate or baby gates to keep your dog in a safe area.
- Speak to your veterinarian or a trainer about additional solutions for dealing with anxiety should it arise.

The Outdoor Dog

It cannot be stressed enough: the more time a dog spends with you, the more quickly they will become a well-behaved member of your family. When a dog is isolated for long periods, they will likely develop undesirable habits.

- Your dog will not appropriately exercise in your yard by themselves. Any outdoor-only dogs need periods of exercise, enrichment, and play with you.
- Your dog may become territorial and feel they must patrol the area, causing undesirable barking.
- A dog left alone in the backyard can be subject to mistreatment by people and may even be stolen.
- A dog tied up in the backyard does not serve as a deterrent to potential burglars who know they will have free reign in your home.

Dogs Acting Out/Spiteful Behavior

Many owners incorrectly interpret undesirable behaviors, such as urinating on the rug or knocking over the trash can, as a dog "acting out" or behaving out of spite. In reality, many factors play a role in causing undesired behaviors such as:

- The dog does not know what is expected of them.
- Certain breed characteristics
- Incomplete housetraining
- Medical problems
- Puppyhood or adolescence
- Boredom
- Stress
- Lack of supervision and lack of management

Medical Treatment

While at SafeHaven, your dog received the DA2PP and Bordetella vaccines. The DA2PP vaccine provides protection against canine distemper, adenovirus, parvovirus, and parainfluenza. The Bordetella vaccine provides protection against Bordetella, a common cause of CIRDC (“kennel cough”). Puppies and some dogs need additional boosters of this vaccine administered by your veterinarian over a period of weeks to achieve maximum immunity from diseases. Until these are completed, it is best to limit exposure to unvaccinated dogs. Intestinal parasites and infectious diseases can be spread by fecal material from other dogs – so it is important to properly dispose of waste and avoid areas of elimination used by other dogs. Avoid high traffic areas such as dog parks where unvaccinated dogs may frequent. Parvovirus is an especially contagious and often fatal disease which primarily affects puppies, so any dog under one year of age without sufficient booster vaccines should not be taken to public parks until they have received a full series of the DA2PP vaccine. Once they have two boosters, they may participate in socialization classes at clean, disinfected facilities. Your veterinarian will work with you to determine a booster schedule and may recommend additional vaccines based on your dog’s age and lifestyle.

Deworming

All dogs and puppies are given several doses of medication to eliminate roundworms and hookworms. Most dogs receive Pyrantel (brand name Strongid T) which covers roundworms and hookworms. All puppies receive Ponazuril as well, an antiprotozoal drug that covers coccidia. Adult dogs receive Ponazuril if coccidia is present. Certain dogs may be given Panacur (Fenbendazole), a broad spectrum dewormer which covers roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, tapeworms, and Giardia if determined to be necessary by SafeHaven’s medical staff. If tapeworms are seen, the medication Praziquantel will be administered to eliminate them. Continued treatment and other types

of parasite control may be recommended by your veterinarian to treat a wider range of parasites.

Antibiotics and Other Medications

When an animal is sick with CIRDC (“kennel cough”), we may prescribe antibiotics to treat the illness. If your newly adopted dog was sent home antibiotics or other medication, it is important that you follow the dispensing directions carefully and follow up with the SafeHaven medical team as directed for rechecks and further treatment if needed.

Flea/Parasite Control

Many products exist that protect your dog from fleas and parasites. If you travel with your dog, you will want to protect them from illnesses spread by fleas and ticks in other parts of the country. Your veterinarian has a wide range of high-quality flea control products which are safer and more effective than over-the-counter flea products.

Heartworm

SafeHaven does not routinely test for heartworm disease. The disease, spread by the bite of an infected mosquito, is still relatively rare in the Willamette Valley area, but dogs that come to SafeHaven on rescue transports or with little or no history may have previously lived in a part of the country where heartworm is quite common. We recommend that all dogs over 6 months old receive a heartworm test after adoption and monthly preventative for life.

Your veterinarian will be able to provide you with more information about testing and prevention.

Spaying/Neutering

All dogs and puppies that arrive at SafeHaven unaltered (intact) will be spayed or neutered. Post-operative instructions will be provided to you if your new pet recently had surgery. Please read and follow these instructions carefully. We cannot be held responsible for complications arising from failure to follow the post-operative instructions.

Grooming

Certain dog breeds require professional grooming. Grooming is not merely for looks; it allows for freedom of movement and allows the skin to breathe. Neglecting this type of care can constitute neglect and cause suffering.

Veterinarian Visit

Some veterinarians in Linn and Benton County offer a free complimentary office visit if you call within 7 days of adopting from SafeHaven. This enables you to establish a relationship with a local veterinary clinic, have a veterinarian examine your dog to see if there are serious medical concerns, and gives you an opportunity to ask questions.

More Resources

Visit the SafeHaven “Behavior & Training” webpage under the “Resources” tab <https://safehavenhumane.org/behavior-training-resources/> for tips on choosing a trainer, a list of local trainers, and online training articles and resources. Feel free to contact us anytime with questions or concerns. Thank you for adopting!