



## **Bellwether Harbor Mission Statement:**

"Helping animals and people make a connection through education, training, and adoption."



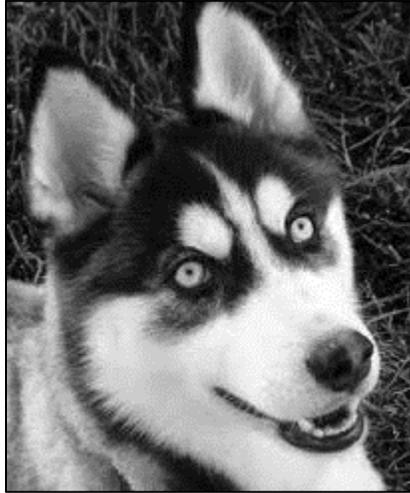
Here at Bellwether, our goal is to find a perfect match between an animal in need of a home and a person in need of a forever friend. We believe that it is beneficial to make repeated visits to ensure a strong bond that will last a lifetime. The decision to adopt a companion is a serious one that should entail a lot of thought.

Our commitment to the animals doesn't end when the family leaves our front door. Bellwether encourages you to contact us with any problems or issues as they arise. Our goal is to keep the pet in the home. Let us use our years of experience and training to help you create a strong and lasting bond with your new buddy.

Your Friends at Bellwether Harbor



## Congratulations!



### **You've just made the decision to adopt a new dog.**

Right now you may be thinking...

- 🐾 What did I get myself into?
- 🐾 What if I come home tired and don't feel like playing with the dog?
- 🐾 Who can I get to care for the dog if I go out of town?
- 🐾 How expensive will the vet bills be?
- 🐾 What if the dog needs training?

There are a lot of things to consider when adopting a dog. In fact, if you weren't asking yourself these questions, we'd be concerned for the dog. Taking on the everyday care of your new dog does consume time and effort, but the rewards will be endless. They will become your best friend.

The first days after adoption may seem very difficult. The lifestyle and emotional changes can be frustrating. Don't expect too much too soon. It will get easier and more fun as everyone finds their routine. Your patience will be rewarded when you have a great lifelong companion.



## Bellwether Harbor Feeding Chart

While living at Bellwether, your new dog has been fed \_\_\_\_\_ times per day. Usual feeding times are 8 a.m., noon, and 3 p.m. Most adult dogs are fed at morning and afternoon times. Puppies and adults that need weight gain are also fed at lunch time. Following feeding, dogs are then allowed out onto the courtyards to potty. On days that we are here until 7 p.m., they get an additional potty trip at 6 p.m.

Your new pet has been eating \_\_\_\_\_ cups of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

When switching types of foods, mix the old and new together over the course of a week. Gradually adding more of the new food and subtracting the old allows their systems to adjust to the new diet without tummy upset.

Feeding times can also be changed as well, again over a course of time. Adult dogs should be fed their diet split into two meals from the age of six months until old age. Feeding in meals allows you to gauge how much your dog is eating and lets you know if they have skipped a meal.

When your new pet first comes home, beware that they have known this routine during their stay at Bellwether. They have been conditioned to go at these times and it will take some training and confinement to retrain them to your schedule. Dogs also commonly have accidents in a new home because they don't know how to let you know that they have to go or which door to use. Please be patient with your new family member and you will be rewarded with a faithful, loving companion.



## TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

- 🐾 If a dog gets away outside, don't chase. Instead, crouch with your arms open and high voice, or open the car door and say "let's go for a ride."
- 🐾 If you don't give them a job, they will find one and it won't be the one you want done. Keep busy!
- 🐾 Crate training:
  - Feed in crate with door open.
  - Never let out when "noisy".
  - Partly cover crate with a light sheet to create a safe dome.
  - Never leave a collar on a puppy in a crate.
  - Use the crate as a positive place. Don't be negative about it or they will never want to go in.
  - The crate can be used as a safe place for your dog to retreat if something has become too much.
  - You want the crate to be their safe place but don't let them become protective of it and become aggressive, still give them boundaries.
- 🐾 Boundaries help them feel secure.
- 🐾 Be consistent, have a routine!
- 🐾 Treats are treats, not food! Make them work for their reward.
- 🐾 Make them work for everything: petting, food, treats, going in or out of doors.
- 🐾 Read the book "*Good Owners, Great Dogs*" by Brian Kilcommons.
- 🐾 Training starts the minute you walk out the doors to go home.
- 🐾 Walk around the boundaries of your yard when you get home for the first time and try to get them to go potty where you want them to go. They will use this spot again. You can use a word or phrase for that action and train them to "go" on command. This works well in the winter.
- 🐾 Keep the leash on them when you first walk into the home. By having the connection to the leash you are able to make a correction when they start to do something you may not want them to do.
- 🐾 When you use a command and they do it well reward them but still repeat the command. For example, "Zeke sit" and he sits, reward him with "good sit, good sit" and then give him a treat. Repeat, repeat!

- 🐾 The first 24 to 72 hours for **adult** dogs will be the honeymoon period. After this time the dog may start to show more of his/her personality (chewing, barking, etc.).
- 🐾 The first 24 to 72 hours for **puppies** will be very difficult. He/she will be pressing all the buttons to find the boundaries. Set these boundaries the moment you leave the shelter and make appropriate corrections as needed.
- 🐾 Remember, we are here to help. Call us, we can offer guidance during the initial transition. We also offer affordable group and private dog training sessions. Call for details.

# BRINGING YOUR NEW DOG HOME

Congratulations, you have made a wonderful decision to adopt a dog from our shelter. We hope that you and your new dog will bond and have a long lasting relationship. To insure that you get started on the right foot, we have a few suggestions.

It's important to give your new dog structure and guidance in the first few weeks. Dogs feel better when they know their place in the family.

1. Give your new dog a schedule so he/she learns when feeding time, play time, and exercise time will come.
2. Let your dog know which behaviors please you (give a treat for being good).
3. Teach your dog to "sit" and ask him/her to sit before he/she gets anything – food, attention, play, going outside. This simple practice teaches your new dog that you are the leader.

It's likely that your new dog may have a few accidents in the house the first few days, even if he/she is housetrained. To help prevent this and retrain your new dog, do the following:

1. Keep the dog on a leash when you first let him/her explore the house. This way you can interrupt any signs of elimination and quickly take him/her outside.
2. Accompany your new dog outside to the same area each time to eliminate. This will allow you to reward for eliminating outside. Use a food treat and plenty of praise to reward appropriate outside elimination.
3. Never punish a dog for eliminating inside if you did not catch him/her in the act. Simply clean the area well with an enzymatic odor neutralizer and pay more attention next time.
4. If you do catch your dog in the act of eliminating inside, interrupt the behavior by making a loud noise (clap your hands) and then urgently say "outside" and take the dog out. Don't forget to praise and give a treat for finishing outside.

Dogs that are adopted from a shelter often bond very rapidly, closely, and deeply with their new owners. This can cause a problem when you have to leave him/her alone. You must teach your new dog that you are not going to abandon him/her when you leave the house.

1. The very first day you should depart frequently. Just go in and out of the house numerous times for a few seconds and then a few minutes.
2. Do not make a big deal out of your departures and arrivals. Just come and go without saying anything to the dog.
3. Leave your dog with a food stuffed toy to keep him busy for a while after you leave.
4. Leave a radio or TV on when you are gone to keep your dog company. This may calm him/her and will also provide background noise that will block all the noises outside.

If you have any problems with your new dog or questions about training, don't hesitate to call us. We want you to form a long-lasting positive relationship with your new dog.



# If You Lost or Found a Dog or Cat

Bellwether Harbor is a private, non-profit animal shelter that is here for abused, abandoned and stray dogs and cats. People often contact Bellwether Harbor for assistance when they have lost or found a dog or cat. We have developed this handout as a quick reference guide to help people find their animal friends. If you have any questions about these procedures, please contact Bellwether Harbor.

## **If You Lost a Dog or Cat:**

1. **Immediately Contact** local animal shelters, animal control and area veterinarians. It is very important to call and visit these places every other day. You know better than anyone what your animal looks like. In the State of Michigan a dog may be euthanized after four days if it has no collar and after seven days if it does have a collar.
2. **Post Flyer** with a detailed description and a photo, if possible. List date lost, location or area last seen, phone number for contact, name and animal answers to. It is *very important* to list a reward. Post these flyers in area grocery stores, veterinary office(s), the post office, businesses, etc. in your town and surrounding towns.
3. **Put Ads in Local and Area Newspapers:** Use the same information as your flyers.



## **If You Find a Dog or Cat:**

1. **Immediately Contact** local animal shelters, animal control and area veterinarians.
2. **Post Flyers** at area businesses, veterinary offices, grocery stores, the post office, etc. with a phone number for contact. Give a minimal amount of information to describe the dog or cat.
3. **Screen Callers:** When someone calls about the animal, ask them to describe the animal, making sure they are not just repeating your description. Ask the animal's name and see if the animal responds. If everything matches, then give out a location for pick-up, this does not have to be your home.

## **If You Need to Find a Home for Your Dog or Cat:**

1. **Post Flyers:** Put up flyers in area businesses, veterinary offices, grocery stores, the post office, etc. with a photo, detailed description and phone number for contact.
2. **Interview Potential Owners:** For suggested interview questions please refer to the adoption application on Bellwether Harbor's webpage: [www.bellwetherharbor.org](http://www.bellwetherharbor.org).
3. **Ask People You Know:** Ask your family and friends if they or someone they know would enjoy having your pet in their home.
4. **Advertise:** Place an ad in area newspapers for two to three weeks.
5. **Purebreds:** For purebred dogs and cats, contact that particular breed rescue group. Many groups have websites.

# Don't Like Fido's Name?



Changing your new dog's name is okay. Actually, it's easy for your new best friend to learn a new name. The key is repetition. Don't feel that they can't learn a new name even if it is completely different from the previous one. An adult dog or puppy can easily learn a new name in just a few days. Here's how...

- 🐾 Pick any name that you want for your new pet.
- 🐾 For the first few days, carry a pocket full of treats.
- 🐾 Every once in awhile, and specifically when you want their attention, call out their new name with excitement, adding hand gesture signals to come to you. Praise enthusiastically, and give a treat.
- 🐾 Even if they don't turn to look at you when you call out their new name, do the above anyway, and soon they will know that hearing that word means treats are coming their way. Eventually, they will learn that this is their word and so the need for treats won't be necessary. As with all commands, repetition and praise are the key.





Want to brag about your adorable new best friend?  
Share your comments for everyone to see!



## JOIN US ON FACEBOOK.COM

We love to hear your feedback and see your pictures. This is your chance to keep everyone updated on your new buddy. Join our group, get updates on shelter happenings and, best of all, share your stories with friends that never tire of hearing about the funny things that your pet did today!

Search "Bellwether Harbor".  
We hope to hear from you soon!

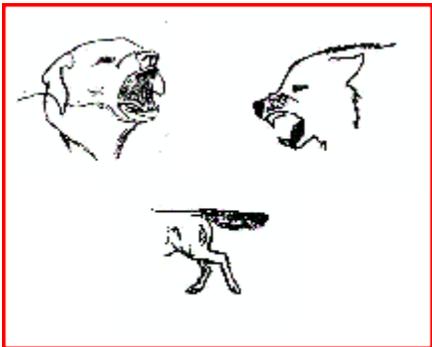
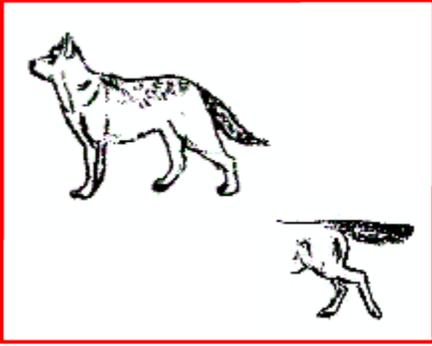


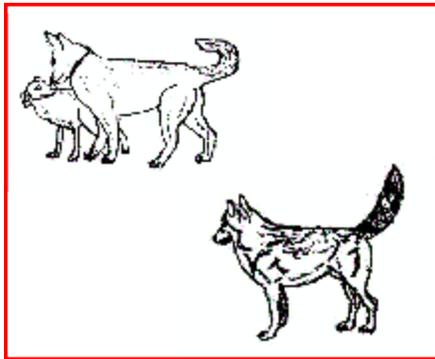


# Body Language And Calming Signals

# Canine Body Language Chart

Following are some common behaviors and what they look like. Since this is a generalized chart, and your dog is a unique individual, he or she may not display all of these traits. But you can use this information to get an idea of what to look for in your dog and what feelings they are showing. As your relationship with your dog grows stronger, it will become easier to know what they are trying to say.

Canine Body Language Chart	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AGGRESSIVE</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Ears</b> - Back, close to head <b>Eyes</b> - Narrow or staring challengingly. <b>Mouth/teeth</b> - Lips open, drawn back to expose teeth bared in a snarl. Possible jaw snapping. <b>Body</b> - Tense. Upright. Hackles on neck up. Completely dominant position. <b>Tail</b> Straight out from body. Fluffed up. <b>Vocalization</b> - Snarl. Growl. Loud bark.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ALERT</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Ears</b> - Perked-up. Turning to catch sounds. <b>Eyes</b> - Open normally or wide. <b>Mouth/teeth</b> - Mouth closed or slightly open with teeth covered. <b>Body</b> - Normal. Possible standing on tiptoe. Slightly dominant position. <b>Tail</b> - Up. Possibly wagging. <b>Vocalization</b> - None. Low whine or alarm bark.</p>



## DOMINANT

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**Ears** - Up straight or forward

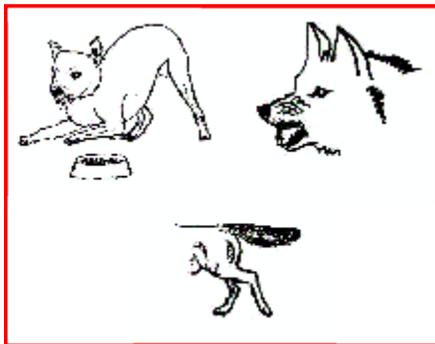
**Eyes** - Wide open, staring, direct contact.

**Mouth/teeth** - Mouth closed or slightly open.

**Body** - Very tall posture. May drape head over another dog's shoulders. Hackles may be up.

**Tail** - Stiffened and fluffed. Up or straight out from body.

**Vocalization** - Low, assertive growl or grunt.



## GUARDING

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**Ears** - Perked up. Forward.

**Eyes** - Wide open, alert.

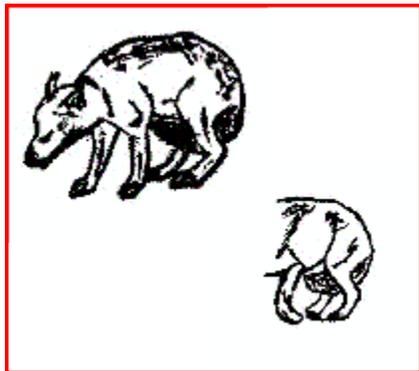
**Mouth/teeth** - Mouth slightly open, teeth bared.

Snapping or gnashing of teeth.

**Body** - Tense. Rigid. Hackles up. Standing very tall in an aggressive or dominant stance.

**Tail** - Rigid. Held straight out from body. Sometimes fluffed.

**Vocalization** - Loud, alert bark. Growl. Snarl.



## FEARFUL

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**Ears** - Laid back flat and low on head.

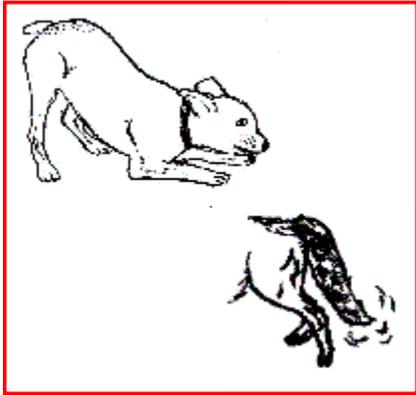
**Eyes** - Narrowed, averted. Possibly rolled back in head, whites showing, dilated pupils.

**Mouth/teeth** - Lips drawn back to expose teeth.

**Body** - Tense. Crouched low in submissive position. Shivering, trembling. Frozen in one place. Possible secretion from anal scent glands.

**Tail** - Down between legs.

**Vocalization** - Low, worried yelp, whine or growl.



## PLAYFUL/HAPPY

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**Ears** - Perked up and forward or relaxed.

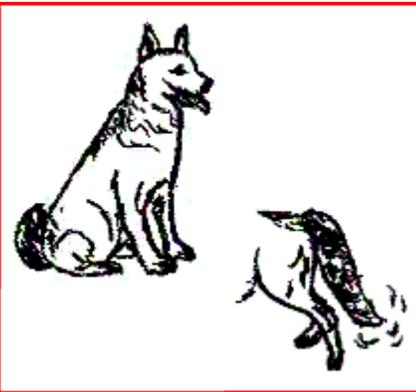
**Eyes** - Wide open.

**Mouth/teeth** - Relaxed and slightly open, teeth covered. Excited panting.

**Body** - Relaxed, or front end lowered, rear end up in the air, wiggling in a play-bow. Excited bouncing or jumping up and down. Circling around and forward as an invitation to play.

**Tail** - Wagging vigorously.

**Vocalization** - Excited barking. Soft play-growling.



## RELAXED/FRIENDLY

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**Ears** - Perked up.

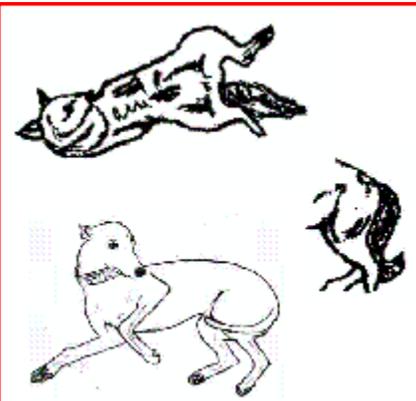
**Eyes** - Wide open. Alert look.

**Mouth/teeth** - Relaxed, possibly slightly open, "smiling" mouth.

**Body** - Normal. Still, or possible wiggling of whole rear end.

**Tail** - Up or out from body. Wagging.

**Vocalization** - Whimpering, yapping, or short, high bark.



## SUBMISSIVE

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**Ears** - Down, flattened against head.

**Eyes** - Narrowed to slits or wide open, whites showing.

**Mouth/teeth** - Lips pulled away back from teeth in a "grin". Nuzzling or licking other animal or person on face.

**Body** - Lowered to ground, front paw raised. Lying on back, belly up. Possible urine leaking/dribbling. Possible emptying of anal scent glands.

**Tail** - Down, between legs.

**Vocalization** - None or low, worried whining. Possible yelping/whimpering in fear.

Read more: <http://www.dogskool.com/canine-body-language-chart.html#ixzz53ue7iOL9>

# How To Recognize Calming Signals

Did you know...

Yawning can occur when dogs are completely relaxed, especially just before closing their eyes to go to sleep. However, it can also be a sign of nervousness and apprehension.

Did you know..

**Blinking** - When a dog blinks it shows friendliness or submission. The alpha dog or leader of the pack may accept the submissive individual's greetings by blinking. That means that the leader accepts the other's greetings and offers a calm response. The submissive dog blinks in return, licks its lips and champs (noisy chewing motion), which means friendliness and submission. Dogs often blink at humans when they have been too harsh or seem aggressive.

## CALMING SIGNALS

Animal behaviorists believe dogs communicate calming signals to each other, which are meant to relax potential aggressors as well as calm themselves. If you are able to observe your particular dog's use of calming signals, experts say you can even use them yourself to calm your dog during times of stress. For example, check out your dog during particularly anxious moments: at the vet's office or in obedience class when he does something wrong. You will probably see your dog yawn, sniff the ground or other objects, or lick his nose. If your dog encounters unfamiliar dogs or people at the dog park or while out on a walk, you may see him display some body language that means to say, "Look, I'm not a threat to you." Here are some typical signs to look for:

- Sniffing the ground: This is thought to be a signal for a fearful dog to calm another human, creature or animal that may frighten him.
- Turning the head, head held to the side, or eyes flick to the side for just an instant. Sometimes this takes place in such a short time you may not be able to catch it. Some dogs may do this when a child runs up to give them a hug. You can use this signal when greeting a new dog that may be fearful by coming up to the dog at an angle or by looking away.
- Licking his own nose. Quick or slow, this is also thought to be a signal to calm strangers. Interestingly, black dogs use this signal more often than other dogs. This may be because their features are more difficult to see and a pink tongue stands out.
- Licking your or another dog's face, although a typical canine greeting, may or may not also be a calming signal. Most dogs did this to their mothers when they were puppies to get her attention.
- Yawning: This is a common stress signal. Behaviorist have observed this in dogs doing obedience when their owners are expecting a lot of them, at dog shows, at the vet's office, or when their owners are disciplining them. Of course, it can also mean that your dog is completely relaxed, especially just before closing their eyes to go to sleep.

Try communicating with your dog in his own language. If you own an older dog, try some of the signals to calm him down. Older dogs are more sensitive to their owner's body language, which may be why they seem to be able to read our minds at times. Your dog may look at you strangely when you speak in canine language, but it just might work.

Read more: <http://www.dogskool.com/recognize-calming-signals.html#ixzz53uedipQD>



# Dog Health



## Please Read

At Bellwether Harbor, we make every effort *not* to adopt out any animal with signs of illness. However, it is not uncommon for pets adopted from any shelter to show signs of illness shortly after being placed into a new home. Most commonly, dogs may develop Kennel Cough, while cats may develop an Upper Respiratory Infection. The stress of being in a kennel situation coupled with the stress of moving into a new home makes a shelter pet more susceptible to a contagious illness. Most illnesses pets tend to pick up at shelters are easily treated with antibiotics or other medication and need not be alarming.

Please take your pet to the veterinarian for a check-up as soon as possible after adoption. **In addition, any pet should see a veterinarian immediately if you notice any of the following symptoms:** lethargy, poor appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, patches of hair loss, eye discharge, runny nose, decreased or excessive water consumption, coughing, sneezing, or weight loss.

Please read the additional information contained in your adoption packet and remember to be patient! We have included a lot of trusted information and resources needed to train and address problem areas to help you make your new pet the perfect family member.

# Canine Parvovirus

Parvo is a canine virus that causes severe inflammation and the eventual death of the small intestine. This, in turn, leads to the vomiting and diarrhea commonly associated with this disease. The virus is found worldwide and can infect dogs of all ages. The most commonly affected are puppies.

While very contagious between dogs and other members of the canine family, the parvovirus does not pass to other animal species or humans. Most commonly, the disease is spread between dogs by ingestion of infected feces. Parvo can be shed in stool for up to two weeks and is stable in the environment for years. Areas that have been exposed should be clean from fecal material and disinfected using a diluted bleach solution.

Once inside the body, the virus begins to attack the lining of the small intestine. Vomiting and bloody diarrhea soon follow. This then leads to dehydration, electrolyte imbalance, toxic shock, and secondary bacterial infections. When left untreated, this virus is usually fatal.

Puppies can be exposed to parvo and not show any signs of illness for as much as 5 to 11 days later. Vomiting is usually the first sign, with blood streaked, watery diarrhea occurring within 24 to 72 hours later. Other signs include fever, lack of appetite, weakness, listlessness, and rapid dehydration. In some cases death can occur as quickly as two days after initial signs.

An in-hospital ELISA (Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay) test of a suspected pet's feces is commonly used to help veterinarians diagnose parvo. Treatment should be started immediately on positive animals to insure the best prognosis. Intensive care therapy is required and may include intravenous fluid therapy for dehydration, antibiotics to prevent and treat secondary bacterial infections, potassium to aid in electrolyte balance, and anti-vomiting medication. Also beneficial is the administration of a parvovirus vaccine. This virus is unique because a vaccine that is given during the course of the illness can actually help the body to fight it. Hospitalization may be required for as long as 4 to 8 days or longer. The prognosis depends upon the severity of infection and promptness of treatment.

Puppies can receive some protection against parvovirus from their mothers if she was vaccinated prior to giving birth. However, this immunity is weak and does not last. It is necessary to vaccinate puppies with a modified live form of the virus at the age of 6 to 8 weeks. Booster shots must then be given every three weeks until the dog is 16 to 18 weeks of age. Thereafter an annual vaccine is needed to maintain protective immune levels. While the vaccine is not 100% effective, it is currently your pet's best chance of staying healthy. As an added precaution, puppies should be restricted from interacting with other dogs until they have been fully vaccinated.

## **WHAT** *is Canine Distemper?*



Canine distemper is a highly contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and, often, the nervous systems of puppies and dogs. The virus also infects wild canids (e.g. foxes, wolves, coyotes), raccoons, skunks, and ferrets.

## **HOW** *is Canine Distemper virus spread?*

Puppies and dogs usually become infected through airborne exposure to the virus contained in respiratory secretions of an infected dog or wild animal. Outbreaks of distemper tend to be sporadic. Because canine distemper also affects wildlife populations, contact between wild and domestic canids may facilitate spread of the virus.

## **WHAT** *dogs are at risk?*

All dogs are at risk but puppies younger than four months old and dogs that have not been vaccinated against canine distemper are at increased risk of acquiring the disease.

## **WHAT** *are some signs of Canine Distemper?*

The first sign of distemper is eye discharge that may appear watery to pus-like. Subsequently, dogs develop fever, nasal discharge, coughing, lethargy, reduced appetite, vomiting, and diarrhea. In later stages, the virus may attack the nervous system, bringing about seizures, twitching, or partial or complete paralysis. Occasionally, the virus may cause footpads to harden. Distemper is often fatal. Even if a dog does not die from the disease, canine distemper virus can cause irreparable damage to the dog's nervous system. Distemper is so serious and the signs so varied that any sick dog should be taken to a veterinarian for an examination and diagnosis.

## **HOW** *is Canine Distemper diagnosed and treated?*

Veterinarians diagnose canine distemper on the basis of clinical appearance and laboratory tests. No drug is available that will kill the virus in infected dogs. Treatment consists primarily of efforts to prevent secondary infections; control vomiting, diarrhea, or neurologic symptoms; and combat dehydration through administration of fluids. Ill dogs should be kept warm, receive good nursing care, and be separated from other dogs.

## **HOW** *is Canine Distemper prevented?*

Vaccination and avoiding contact with infected animals are key elements of canine distemper prevention.

Vaccination is important. Young puppies are very susceptible to infection, particularly because the natural immunity provided in their mothers' milk may wear off before the puppies' own immune systems are mature enough to fight off the infection. If a puppy is exposed to canine distemper virus during this gap in protection, it may become ill. An additional concern is that immunity provided by a mother's milk may interfere with an effective response to vaccination. This means even vaccinated puppies may occasionally succumb to distemper. To narrow gaps in protection and optimally defend against canine distemper during the first few months of life, a series of vaccinations is administered.

*“Vaccination and avoiding contact with infected animals are key elements of canine distemper prevention.”*

Until a puppy has received its complete series of vaccinations, pet owners should use caution when taking their pet to places where young puppies congregate (e.g. pet shops, parks, puppy classes, obedience classes, doggy daycare, and grooming establishments). Reputable establishments and training

programs reduce exposure risk by requiring vaccinations, health examinations, good hygiene, and isolation of ill puppies and dogs.

To protect their adult dogs, pet owners should be sure that their dog's distemper vaccination is up-to-date. Ask your veterinarian about a recommended vaccination program for your canine companion.

*Although this handout provides basic information about canine distemper, your veterinarian is always your best source of health information. Consult your veterinarian for more information about canine distemper and its prevention.*



# External Parasites

At some point in their lives, many pets experience discomfort caused by external parasites such as fleas, ticks, or mites on their skin or in their ears. These parasites can be extremely irritating to pets and can cause serious skin problems or even carry disease. Modern medicines make treatment, control, and prevention of many external parasites much easier than in the past.

## Fleas

Fleas thrive when the weather is warm and humid. Depending on your climate, fleas may be a seasonal or year-round problem. Your pet can pick up fleas wherever an infestation exists, often in areas frequented by other cats and dogs. Adult fleas are dark brown, no bigger than a sesame seed, and able to move rapidly over your pet's skin.

Once the flea becomes an adult, it spends virtually all of its time on your pet. Female fleas begin laying eggs within 24 hours of selecting your pet as a host, producing up to 50 eggs each day. These eggs fall from your pet onto the floor or furniture, including your pet's bed, or onto any other indoor or outdoor area where your pet happens to go. Tiny, worm-like larvae hatch from the eggs and burrow into carpets, under furniture, or into soil before spinning a cocoon. The cocooned flea pupae can lie dormant (inactive) for weeks before emerging as adults that are ready to infest (or re-infest) your pet. The result is a flea life cycle of anywhere from 12 days to 6 months, depending on environmental factors such as temperature and humidity.

**Risks and Consequences:** You may not know that your pet has fleas until their number increases to the point that your pet is obviously uncomfortable. Signs of flea problems range from mild redness to severe scratching that can lead to open sores and skin infections ("hot spots"). One of the first things you may notice on a pet with fleas is "flea dirt"—the black flea droppings left on your pet's coat.

Some pets can develop an allergy to flea saliva that may result in more severe irritation and scratching; these pets can become severely itchy from just one or two flea bites. Also, pets can become infected with certain types of tapeworms if they ingest fleas carrying tapeworm eggs (a pet using its teeth to scratch the flea bites often eats the fleas). In areas with moderate to severe flea infestations, people may also be bitten by fleas. While fleas are capable of transmitting several infectious diseases to pets and people, this is rare.

**Treatment and Control:** Your veterinarian will recommend an appropriate flea control plan for your pet based on your needs, your pet's needs and the severity of the flea infestation.

In addition to treating your pet, you can reduce the flea population in your house by thoroughly cleaning your pet's sleeping quarters and vacuuming floors and furniture that your pet comes in contact with frequently. Careful and regular vacuuming/cleaning of the pet's living area helps to remove and kill flea eggs, larvae, and pupae. Pay particular attention to carpeted areas and rugs where your pet lies.

With moderate and severe flea infestations, you may also be advised to treat your yard. Your veterinarian can recommend an appropriate course of action and suggest ways to prevent future flea infestations.

## Ticks

Ticks are commonly found in wooded areas, brush, shrubs and wild undergrowth, and any animal (or human, for that matter) that enters these environments is at risk of becoming a tick's host. Immature ticks often feed on small, wild animals found in forests, prairies, and brush. Adult ticks seek larger hosts like dogs and cats which venture into these habitats. Tick exposure may be seasonal, depending on geographic location.

**Risks and Consequences:** Ticks are most often found around your dog's neck, in the ears, in the folds between the legs and the body, and between the toes, but they can be found anywhere on the body and are usually easily seen or felt. Cats may have ticks on their neck or face. Tick bites can cause skin irritation and heavy infestations can cause anemia in pets.

**Treatment and Control:** Prompt removal of ticks is very important because it lessens the chance of disease transmission from the tick to your pet. Remove ticks by carefully using tweezers to firmly grip the tick as close to the pet's skin as possible and gently and steadily pulling the tick free without twisting it or crushing the tick during removal. After removing the tick, crush it while avoiding contact with tick fluids that can carry disease.

Pets at risk for ticks should be treated during the tick season with an appropriate preventive. Your veterinarian can recommend a product best suited to your pet's needs. Owners who take their pets to tick-prone areas during camping, sporting, or hiking trips should examine their pets for ticks immediately upon returning home and remove them from their pets. If your pet picks up ticks in your backyard, trimming bushes may reduce your pet's exposure and risk of infestation.

## Ear Mites

Ear mites are common in young cats and dogs, and generally confine themselves to the ears and surrounding area. Mites are tiny and individual mites may be seen only with the aid of a microscope. Your pet can pick up ear mites by close contact with an infested pet or its bedding.

**Risks and Consequences:** Ear mites can cause intense irritation of the ear canal. Signs of ear mite infestation include excessive head shaking and scratching of the ears. Your pet may scratch to the point that he/she creates bleeding sores around his/her ears. A brown or black ear discharge is common.

**Treatment and Control:** Treatment of ear mites involves thorough ear cleaning and medication. Your veterinarian can recommend an effective treatment plan.

## **Sarcoptic Mange Mites**

Microscopic sarcoptic mange mites cause sarcoptic mange, also known as scabies. Sarcoptic mange can affect dogs of all ages and sizes, during any time of the year. Sarcoptic mange mites are highly contagious to other dogs and may be passed by close contact with infested animals, bedding, or grooming tools.

**Risks and Consequences:** Sarcoptic mange mites burrow through the top layer of the dog's skin and cause intense itching. Clinical signs include generalized hair loss, a skin rash, and crusting. Skin infections may develop secondary to the intense irritation. People who come in close contact with an affected dog may develop a skin rash and should see their physician.

**Treatment and Control:** Dogs with sarcoptic mange require medication to kill the mites and additional treatment to soothe the skin and resolve related infections. Cleaning and treatment of the dog's environment is also necessary.

**Information provided courtesy of the *American Veterinary Medical Association.***

# INTERNAL PARASITES

Annual fecal checks are recommended to detect silent parasite infestation because many times there are not outward signs. Another approach is to use ongoing parasite management to prevent infections from starting. Ask your veterinarian to discuss the available options with you.

**Roundworms** are the most common parasitic worm in both dogs and cats. Kittens and puppies with roundworm infestations will often have a potbellied appearance. Animals get roundworms from ingesting the eggs in contaminated stools, eating infected rodents, migration from mother to fetus, or mother to newborn through nursing.

**Hookworms** live in the digestive tract and feed on the blood of the host. Symptoms may include diarrhea or black tar-like stools. Hookworms are spread through contaminated feces and may be ingested in soil or may enter through the skin.

**Whipworms** reside in the cecum, where the small and large intestines meet. Symptoms can include diarrhea, but infected individuals may be asymptomatic. Infection occurs with contact with contaminated feces or soil. The eggs can live for many months outside the host so keeping a clean environment is imperative.

**Tapeworms** are long flat worms that attach themselves to the inside of the intestines. They consist of many segments, each with its own reproductive organs. Often you see the segments, resembling rains of rice, on the animal's backside. There are several species of tapeworms, which are generally spread from fleas or small rodents.

**Giardia and coccidia** are Protozoa. Both Giardia and Coccidia live in the wall of the intestine and can often cause severe diarrhea, although it is possible to have an infection and present no symptoms. Infection occurs from contaminated soil or feces or water contaminated with feces. Again, sanitation is very important to control these infections.

**Toxoplasma** is also a Protozoa. Cats can get toxoplasma from an infected mouse, or infected raw meat in general. Toxoplasma attacks the immune system and can cause abortions and stillbirths in pregnant women, as well as birth defects in unborn fetuses. Women who are pregnant should avoid all contact with cat feces. Also, it is very important for everyone to wear gloves when gardening or cleaning the cat box.

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## HUMAN HEALTH ISSUES

Many parasites can be transmitted to humans and have devastating health effects. Have your pet's stool checked at least once a year, ideally every six months. If you have any questions regarding your own health, please contact your primary care physician.



## What you should know about vaccination for your pet.

Pets, like people, can be protected from some diseases by vaccination. Although this brochure provides basic information about vaccination for your dog or cat, your veterinarian is your best source of advice regarding your pet's vaccination needs.

### What are vaccines?

Vaccines are health products that trigger protective immune responses in pets and prepare them to fight future infections from disease-causing agents. Vaccines can lessen the severity of future diseases and certain vaccines can prevent infection altogether. Today, a variety of vaccines are available for use by veterinarians.

### Is it important to vaccinate?

Yes! Pets should be vaccinated to protect them from many highly contagious and deadly diseases. Experts agree that widespread use of vaccines within the last century has prevented death and disease in millions of animals. Even though some formerly common diseases have now become uncommon, vaccination is still highly recommended because these serious disease agents continue to be present in the environment.

### Does vaccination ensure protection?

For most pets, vaccination is effective and will prevent future disease. Occasionally, a vaccinated pet may not develop adequate immunity and, although rare, it is possible for these pets to become ill. It is important to remember that although breakdowns in protection do occur, most successfully vaccinated pets never show signs of disease, making vaccination an important part of your pet's preventative health care.



### Are there risks?

Although most pets respond well to vaccines, like any medical procedure, vaccination carries some

risk. The most common adverse responses are mild and short-term, including fever, sluggishness, and reduced appetite. Pets may also experience temporary pain or subtle swelling at the site of vaccination. Although most adverse reactions will resolve within a day or two, any excessive or continued pain, swelling, or listlessness should be discussed with your veterinarian.

Rarely, serious adverse responses occur. Contact your veterinarian immediately if your pet has repeated vomiting or diarrhea, whole body itching, difficulty breathing, collapse, or swelling of the face or legs. These signs may indicate an allergic reaction. In very rare instances death can occur. Visit with your veterinarian about the latest information on vaccine safety, including rare adverse responses that may develop weeks or months after vaccination.

Remember that while vaccination is not without risk, failure to vaccinate leaves your pet vulnerable to fatal illnesses that are preventable.

### Why do puppies and kittens require a series of vaccinations?

Very young puppies and kittens are highly susceptible to infectious diseases. This is especially true as the natural immunity provided in their mothers' milk gradually wears off. To keep gaps in protection as narrow as possible and to provide optimal protection against disease for the first few months of life, a series of vaccinations are scheduled, usually 3 to 4 weeks apart. For most puppies and kittens, the final vaccination in the series is administered when they are 12 to 15 weeks old.



### Which vaccines should my pet receive?

Discuss with your veterinarian your pet's lifestyle, access to other animals, and travel to other geographic locations, since these factors affect your pet's risk of exposure to disease. Not all pets should be vaccinated with all vaccines just because these vaccines are available. "Core" vaccines are reserved for pets with unique needs. Your veterinarian will consider your pet's particulars, the diseases at hand, and the application of available vaccines to customize a vaccine recommendation for your pet.

## How often should my pet be vaccinated?

Your veterinarian will tailor a vaccination schedule to suit your pet's needs. For many years, a set of annual vaccinations was considered normal and necessary for dogs and cats. Veterinarians have since learned more about diseases and pets' immune systems, and there is increasing evidence that immunity triggered by some vaccines provides protection beyond one year while the immunity triggered by other vaccines may fail to protect for a full year. Consequently, one vaccination schedule will not work well for all pets. Your veterinarian will determine a vaccination schedule most appropriate for your pet.



*Revised 06/08*

*Thank you to Green Valley  
Animal Hospital of  
Ijamsville, MD for these  
vaccination facts.*

## WHAT is rabies?

Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system. The virus is usually transmitted by a bite from a rabid animal. Prompt and appropriate treatment after being bitten and before the disease develops can stop the infection and prevent the disease in humans.

## WHAT animals get rabies?

Only mammals can get rabies; birds, fish, reptile and amphibians do not. Most cases of rabies occur in wild animals; mainly skunks, raccoons, bats and foxes.

In recent years, cats have become the most common domestic animal infected with rabies because many cats are not vaccinated and are exposed to rabid wildlife while outside. Rabies also occurs in dogs and cattle in significant numbers and has been diagnosed in horses, goats, sheep, swine and ferrets.



Improved vaccination programs and control of stray animals have been effective in preventing rabies in most pets. Approved rabies vaccines are available for cats, dogs, ferrets, horses, cattle and sheep. Licensed oral vaccines have been used for the mass immunization of wildlife with the approval of the state agency responsible for animal rabies control.

## RABIES and humans

Rabies vaccination and animal control programs, along with better treatment for people who have been bitten, have dramatically reduced the number of human cases of rabies in the United States. Most of the relatively few recent human cases acquired in this country have resulted from exposures to bats.

Dogs are still a significant source of rabies in other countries. Travelers should be aware of this risk when traveling outside of the United States.

## WHAT you can do to help control rabies

- Have your veterinarian vaccinate your dogs, cats, ferrets and selective horses and livestock. Your veterinarian will advise you on the recommended or

required frequency of vaccination in your locality.

- Reduce the possibility of exposure to rabies by not letting your pets roam free. Don't leave exposed garbage or pet food outside as it may attract wild or stray animals.
- Wild animals should *never* be kept as pets. Not only may this be illegal but wild animals pose a potential rabies threat to caretakers and to others.
- Observe all wild animals from a distance – even if they appear to be friendly. A rabid wild animal may appear tame but don't go near it. Not all rabid animals foam at the mouth and appear mad.
- If you see a wild animal acting strangely, report it to the city or county animal control department.

## If your PET HAS BITTEN someone

- Urge the victim to see a physician immediately and to follow the physician's recommendations.
- Check with your veterinarian to determine whether your pet's vaccinations are up to date.
- Report the bite to the local health department and animal control authorities. If your pet is a cat, dog or ferret, the officials will confine the animal and watch it closely for ten days. Home confinement may be allowed.
- Immediately report any illness or unusual behavior by your pet to the local health department and your veterinarian.
- Don't let your pet stray and don't give your pet away. The animal must be available for observation by public health authorities or a veterinarian.
- After the recommended observation period, have your pet vaccinated for rabies if it does not have a current rabies vaccination.

## IF YOUR PET has been bitten by a potentially rabid animal

- Consult your veterinarian immediately and report the bite to local animal control authorities.



- Dogs, cats and ferrets that are currently vaccinated should be revaccinated immediately, kept under the owner's control, and observed for a period as specified by state law or local ordinance (normally 45 days or more). Animals with expired vaccinations will need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Unvaccinated dogs, cats and ferrets exposed to a rabid animal may need to be euthanized immediately. Alternatively, the animal should be checked, placed in strict isolation for six months, and vaccinated one month before being released.
- Animals other than dogs, cats, and ferrets that are bitten by a rabid animal should be euthanized immediately.



# Dog Training

# BASIC COMMAND WORDS

## *Teach It – Use It – Expect It*

We are teaching dogs a new language, English, but we are using their way of communicating. Dogs communicate through tones; high for praise, middle for commands, and low for correction. Say it once, help your dog understand, and then praise for accomplishing the task. Most dogs have perfect hearing, so there is no need to raise the volume of your voice.

1. **HEEL** – This command is used when walking on a leash and the desired position is at your side, with the dog's head at your knee.
2. **LET'S GO** – This command is used for a casual walk with no expectation of the dog being directly at your side (knee). There should be no pulling or tugging, just a pleasant walk.
3. **SIT** – This command is used to establish leadership with your dog. We use it as a way to break the heeling exercise. This should be used if reaching a curb and preparing to cross a street (safely). Sit can be a way for your dog to work. It can be used when feeding your dog, sit before food. It can be used before petting, before going outside, when people enter the home, etc.
4. **LEAVE IT** – This command can be used for a variety of situations. It should be used when the dog is going after something that is not acceptable, another animal, garbage, and any kind of distraction.
5. **OFF** – This command is used for when the dog is "up" on anything. Use it when the dog is jumping on a person (including yourself), on a counter, on a door, on the couch, on the bed, etc. **Do not use the word 'down'.**
6. **OK** – we use this command as a release from a command. It's OK to eat the food, go out the door, etc.
7. **STAY** – This command means do not move. It is different from wait (explained below). It is used when you expect the dog to be in the same position for 1 minute or 5 minutes.
8. **WAIT** – This command is used when something will come next, but the expectation is that the dog will remain in the same general position. Wait for your food after the sit command, wait for the door to open, wait for the OK.
9. **COME** – This command can only be used if the dog is either under your control (leash) or is reliable for this command. It must be practiced with a leash and then a long lead (10-20 feet). Do not use this command unless you are sure the dog will come (the dog is consistently coming when called). If used from a distance and the dog does not come, make yourself small, use a high tone and encourage it to be with you. Then go back to training on a leash or long lead.  
**This is one of the most difficult commands to train for a reliable result. The danger of using this command and not having a positive result is that the dog learns he doesn't have to do it and there is nothing you can do to reinforce it. VERY important! Every time the dog comes to you it must be a positive experience. If you are frustrated because the dog is not coming, do not react. Always be positive! Anytime the dog comes to you, it is a good thing!**
10. **DOWN** – This command is used when you want the dog to be fully on the ground. It is not used for any other position (such as jumping up). This can be a difficult command for the dog because it puts the dog in a vulnerable position and dogs do not like to be vulnerable. When training for this, first put the dog in a sit and then teach the down. Later, after the dog understands what down means, and is reliable, it can be used to put the dog fully on the ground without sitting first.
11. **GIVE** – this command means release whatever is in the dog's mouth. It must be taught with expectation and calm authority for the dog to release the object. After the dog understands the command, expect the dog to release the item. If the dog refuses, make the object 'dead'. Lots of praise for giving is a must!

- 12. NO BARK** – when a dog is barking at a time that is not appropriate, you can give the command “no bark”.
- 13. NO BITE** – This is used especially when you have a puppy that is learning appropriate behavior. Give the command and then replace your hand, etc. with a toy or an appropriate item.
- 14. UH-UH** – vocal correction, sound from the back of your throat, meant to sound like a mother dog’s growl to a puppy, used to stop a negative behavior.



## HOUSE TRAINING

The key to training your dog to eliminate outside (where you want him to) is to prevent accidents, and to reward success. Adult dogs have better bladder and bowel control, and can hold it for a longer period of time than puppies.

The rule of thumb with puppies is: take their age in months, add one, and that is the number of hours the puppy can 'hold it' during the day. (For example, a four-month old puppy can be expected to be clean for up to five hours during the day).

Other tips:

- 🐾 Feed your dog on a schedule (he'll eliminate on a schedule too).
- 🐾 Keep his diet simple and consistent (avoid table scraps and canned foods; a high-quality dry kibble produces the least waste).
- 🐾 Choose an area, about ten square feet, outside, where you wish your dog to potty.
- 🐾 Take your dog on leash to the area. Pace back and forth (movement promotes movement) and chant an encouraging phrase ("do your business, do your business...")
- 🐾 Do this for a maximum of three minutes:
  - If he eliminates, huge praise and play
  - If he doesn't eliminate, keep him on leash, go back indoors, keep the dog on the leash with you or confined in a crate
- 🐾 Try again in an hour, eventually your dog will eliminate appropriately and you can give huge praise and play.
- 🐾 After each success, allow 15 minutes of freedom in house, before placing the dog back on lead or back into crate.
- 🐾 After each three consecutive days of success, increase freedom by 15 minutes.
- 🐾 If there is an 'accident', decrease freedom by 15 minutes for three days.

**REMEMBER!** Do not punish accidents! Ignore them, and reward success.

## How To Teach Your Dog To Like Crate Training

For those of you who have not had the opportunity to use a crate and think it is a harsh or cruel way to train your puppy or dog, you should know crates are far from being cruel. In fact, when used in a positive manner, crate training can be the answer to many problems faced by dogs and their owners. Dogs have a natural instinct to be in a den, something that they inherited from their wolf ancestors. Wolves find a small cave, or dig themselves one, and this is where they sleep, rest and hang out. It is home for them. Providing your dog with a crate satisfies his desire to be in a den and provides a safe and secure place for your dog. It is one of the most effective ways to train your puppy or dog to become a happy and well-adjusted family member. Crate training makes life easier for you and your dog.

### Advantages to Crate Training

Many people crate train their dog for the simple reason that the dog can do no wrong while in the crate. Your dog cannot urinate or defecate on the rug, harass the mailman, chew on the furniture or get into the trash. The dog learns to relax and go to sleep while you are away. This teaches the dog good habits, one of which is to sleep while his family is away. And while your dog sleeps, you can go to work, run errands, or take in a movie without having to worry about what condition your house will be in when you return. You put your dog in the crate, shut the door and leave for a few hours, knowing when you return it will be a happy homecoming and not a one-sided yelling match with your dog cringing in the corner not knowing what he did wrong.

There are also advantages if you travel with your dog. A dog that feels secure in his crate is much easier to take on long trips than a dog left to jump excitedly around inside the car. Your dog is also much safer should an accident occur. Hotels or motels are much more willing to allow dogs to stay if you bring your dog's crate, plus the maid can't accidentally let the dog loose into the street if your dog is crated in the room. Dogs being shipped by plane or train feel much more secure and can handle the stress of traveling much easier if they have their own crate to travel in.

A crate is an indoor doghouse with a door and a variety of crates are available. The type you purchase depends primarily on your dog's future lifestyle and your preference. Some people prefer the open wire or cage style crates, so the dog can see all around him. However, the airline style crates suit some people's preference just as well.

### Common excuses not to crate train

- **Won't my dog will be cramped?** - Before putting your dog in the crate each day, before you go to work or out for a couple of hours, make sure you give your dog time to eliminate and to exercise. Your dog will not spend every day of its life in a crate. It is just until the dog outgrows that destructive puppy stage, or until you are able to teach him your household rules and adjusts to living with you. Your dog will actually enjoy being in a crate after you have taught him that it is "his" room.
- **Why can't I just leave the dog in the yard?** - Because dogs, by nature, are pack animals and are very social. They need to be in the house, even if you are not there or when you are sleeping and can't be interacting with them. They need to feel they are part of the family pack and that means being in the house (the pack's den). Problem behaviors such as digging, barking, chewing and escaping may develop in a backyard dog.
- **Won't the dog be bored being locked up?** - The dog will learn to sleep while you're away. A dog will sleep eighteen hours a day if you let him. Remember, a dog's idea of recreation often involves destroying your house or your yard. This type of recreation can't take place if the dog is in his crate.
- **But crates are expensive!** - Compare the initial cost of the crate with the cost of destructive behavior. It is much easier to spend money on a crate in comparison to replacing expensive furniture, flooring, clothing or other valuables, or re-landscaping your yard. A crate is something your dog will have for the rest of his life. It will be his bed, his room, his special place within your home. A good crate will last your dog's lifetime and longer.

### Where should I put the crate?

Your dog's crate should be placed in the most often used room (living room, kitchen, family room) in the house, wherever your family spends the most time, and it should stay there. This allows the dog to feel like part of the family even while resting in the crate.

### How to "crate train"

At first, most dogs will resent being confined because they will feel as if you have left them and are not coming back. However, given some time to adjust, your dog will soon learn to love his crate and the security and privacy that go along with it.

1. **Step 1** - Wire the door to the crate open. Feed the dog, first at the door opening, then push the food further back into the crate. Continue to push the bowl of food further and further back until the dog is comfortable going all the way into the crate to eat. Offer lots of praise while the dog is inside. The dog can come out at any time. If the dog does not finish the whole meal, after 20 minutes, remove the bowl. As you progress, repeat the procedure above, but each time your dog goes into the crate, say a command such as "Go to bed", "Kennel", "Crate", etc. in a happy tone of voice. It doesn't matter which command you use; the important thing is to say the same word or words every time.
2. **Step 2** - Give the command "Kennel". As soon as the dog goes in, feed him his meal. Quietly close the door while the dog is eating. Wait until the dog is done, then open the door. Do this for 3-5 days. As the dog's security builds, feed the dog and wait 10 minutes before letting the dog out. Do this for another 3-5 days. Add 5 minute increments, up to one hour. Then let the dog out of the crate. Because the dog is satiated and has a fully belly, he will probably lay down and rest until you let him out.

Be ready for a verbal protest from your dog. Stay in the room for a few minutes and when the dog is quiet, open the crate door and let him out. If your dog is being very vocal, give the command "No" and then "Quiet". Wait for the dog to be quiet for a minute or two and then let him out. If the "Quiet" command doesn't work, try a squirt bottle set on stream. Aim it at the dog's nose and squirt several times as you say "No", then the "Quiet" command. Wait for several minutes of silence before you let the dog out. This is where patience and persistence comes in. The more consistent you are in ignoring the dog's complaints, the faster your dog will crate train.

The only exceptions where you would let the dog out when it cries is if you have forgotten to take him out to do his business before putting him in the crate or first thing in the morning when your dog needs to go outside immediately to eliminate. Make sure to let your dog out to exercise and eliminate before putting him in the crate for an extended period of time.

### **Crate Misuse/Abuse**

Never use the crate as a punishment. Problems in crate training usually arise because owners fail to teach the dog to like the crate and leave untrained dogs confined for too long. If the dog does not feel comfortable in the crate, it will not enjoy the confinement and might run from the owner when called and/or resist and resent being forced into the crate. Once confined, the dog might bark out of frustration and try to destroy the crate in an attempt to escape. Also, if confined for too long, the dog will soil the crate.

No matter how much the dog enjoys its crate, there will be times when the owner wants to confine the dog but the dog does not want to be confined. Therefore, never call the dog with a "Come" command and then put it in the crate, or else the dog will soon become wary of coming when called. Instead, use your regular "Go to bed" or "Crate" command to enforce compliance without ruining your "Come" command.

### **Crate Safety/Cleaning**

For safety purposes, never leave any type of collar or harness on a puppy or dog that is confined to a crate. Even though it may seem impossible, there have been many tragic strangulations-hangings that have occurred. Also, make it clear to children that a crate is not a playhouse for them, but a "special room" for your puppy or dog whose rights should be recognized and respected. However, you should get the dog accustomed to letting you reach in to the crate at any time, lessening the chance of him becoming overprotective of it.

Clean out the crate regularly. It is recommended that you use a non-ammonia cleaner, because ammonia is similar to a dog's urine and the smell might attract him to soil the crate. You may want to purchase a commercial dog soiling cleaner from your local pet store.

**Even if your dog has perfect manners**

Even if you don't have a destructive dog or one that has behavioral problems that you are trying to correct, a dog crate is a great place to send the dog when things in the house get busy or when you just want a little peace and quiet. If you familiarize the dog with the crate, you can have controlled, quiet periods that teach the dog to turn off and relax. Dogs love their crates. Give it a try. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Read more: <http://www.dogskool.com/crate-training.html#ixzz54ZmcQsx2>

## **Are You Teaching Your Dog To Be Aggressive By Accident?**

Many dog owners teach their dogs to be aggressive by accident, as well as other negative behaviors. Dog aggression is a behavior that is self-rewarding, meaning it will intensify if you do nothing about it. Patting the dog on the head, giving a 'good dog' response, giving no response, and allowing the dog to do what he wants without a correction are all subtle ways of praising the dog instead of telling him that's not okay with me. Obedience commands are the best way to communicate with your dog. A dog that disobeys commands is testing your authority within the pack and you must respond. If you don't, the dog will interpret this lack of reaction on your part as permission to continue the bad behavior. Dogs will always take as much as they can get set some limits, problems will develop.

**Do you want an aggressive dog?** Here are some questions to ask yourself to see if you are accidentally teaching your dog to be aggressive:

- When you walk your dog, is the dog constantly pulling at the end of the leash?
- When you are out walking your dog, does your dog lunge at the other dogs or people and bark, snarl or snap aggressively in their direction?
- Do you allow the dog to display this behavior without giving a correction?
- Do you stroke or pet your dog while he is behaving this way in an effort to calm the dog?
- Do you tell the dog he is being good by defending you and his territory?
- Do you avoid certain houses while on your walks or exercising your dog?
- When people walk past your property, does the bark loudly and aggressively, try to break through the window or door, and continues to behave in this manner after you have told him to stop?

All dogs over 6 months should be taught obedience. If your dog is showing aggressive behavior and you are not in danger of being attacked while out walking or in your home, you need to shut it down immediately. When out walking with the dog, you need to give a strong leash correction, a "NO" command, and turn and walk the other way until you are heeling with control, and then back again towards the person or dog that your dog was barking at. If at any time the dog becomes aggressive, turn away from the object the dog was barking at, gain control, and then walk towards the object again. When giving a verbal command, especially in this situation, say it like you mean it. Don't use a squeaky or high tone; use a low growling tone so the dog knows he's crossed the line and this behavior is unacceptable. The dog needs to be quiet and calm. If you are unable to get control of your dog, call a professional trainer for help. Every time the dog wins and gets his way, it reinforces that aggressive behavior is acceptable.

**Remember a tight leash increases aggression!**

SOURCE: <https://dogskool.com/are-you-teaching-aggression.html>

## Teresa's Bad Rules

*These are rules that kids in Teresa's dog obedience classes call the "bad rules" because they don't like some of them. Following these dos and don'ts will help promote child safety around dogs and prevent dog bites.*

- 1. Do not** hug a dog, put your face close to his face or lie on him. **Do** sit beside your dog, rub his chest or scratch him on the side of the neck.
- 2. Do not** play chase-me games with a dog. **Do** play hide and seek – where the dog has to find you or an object that you hide.
- 3. Do not** play tug-of-war games with a dog. **Do** play fetch with the dog – teach the dog to trade the object for a treat so he won't try to tug.
- 4. Do not** lean over or step over a dog. **Do** respect a dog's resting place – go around him or ask an adult to move the dog.
- 5. Do not** bother a dog who is sleeping, eating, has a toy or bone, is hurt or has puppies. **Do** wait for the dog to come to you for attention.
- 6. Do not** dress a dog up in play clothes. **Do** dress up your stuffed animals.
- 7. Do not** hit a dog or poke him with a stick. **Do** be gentle with dogs.
- 8. Do not** pull a dog's ears, tail or fur. **Do** scratch the dog's chest or the side of his neck – most dogs enjoy this.
- 9. Do not** stick fingers or hands into the dog's crate. **Do** ask an adult to let the dog out of the crate if you want to pet him.
- 10. Do not** play in the dog's crate. **Do** play "in and out of the crate" with the dog – toss a treat in – dog goes in to get it – dog comes back out – toss another treat in, etc. (with adult supervision).
- 11.** If your dog does not welcome you with wagging and panting – leave him alone. **Do** wait for the dog to come to you for attention.
- 12.** If your dog gets too rough or excited, stand still like a tree until he gets bored and goes away.
- 13. Do not** run and shout around a dog that is not in a crate. **Do** be calm around dogs; involve the dog in an activity such as chewing on a bone or playing fetch so he doesn't feel that he needs to chase you to have fun.

For further information about how to read dog body language and child safety around dogs, please visit [www.doggonsafe.com](http://www.doggonsafe.com).

*Dogs and children are unpredictable. The use of this information does not guarantee that no dog bite will occur. Permission granted to copy for educational purposes. © Teresa Lewin, Milton K9 Obedience.*

# RECOMMENDED READING:

## **Great Dog Owners, Great Dogs**

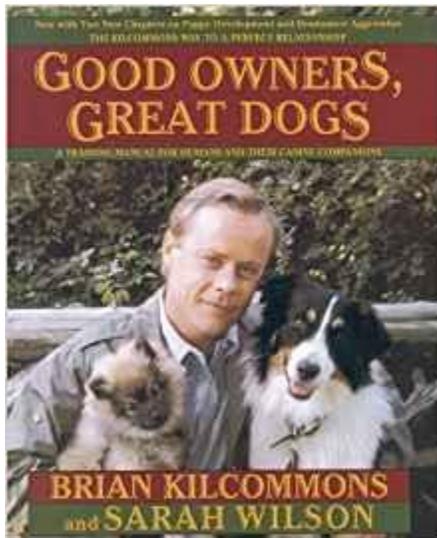
### **A Training Manual for Humans and Their Canine Companions**

*Instead of Going Out of Your Mind, Get into His. The only American to study and work with the renowned Barbara Woodhouse, Brian Kilcommons solves all those "bad dog" problems that drive owners crazy-and shows you how to raise a puppy into a happy, perfectly behaved dog. The trick is to understand how dogs think, read their body language, and, with the secrets Kilcommons shares in this book, be "fun, fair, and firm." A dog-training guide that gives you immediate results even with an adult dog, this manual trains you, as it gives owners everything they need and everything dogs need to become... Good Owners, Great Dogs Includes specific tips on how to:*

- \* housebreak both puppies and adult dogs
- \* teach your dog to come to you regardless of what he's doing
- \* end annoying habits like jumping, food stealing, and barking
- \* prevent aggression and, in many cases, stop it after it has become a problem
- \* use games to teach your dog to obey ...and much more.

*(Source: Amazon.com • 01/18/18)*

*Available online and where your favorite books are sold.*





# Dog Introductions



## Introducing a New Dog to a Resident Dog

1. Introduce the dogs in a neutral location (at the shelter, at a park, etc.). If you have more than one resident dog, introduce them one at a time.
2. When the dogs greet and sniff each other, talk to them in a happy, friendly tone of voice.
3. Introduce the dogs only for brief amounts of time, but do it repeatedly.
4. Try to keep the leashes loose at all times. A tight leash transmits your anxiety about the situation to the dogs and increased their tension.
5. Watch for any body postures that tell you that the dogs are getting tense (raised hackles, baring teeth, growling, stiff-legged gait, prolonged stare). If you see these behaviors, interrupt them by calling the dogs away from each other and have them do something else like sit.
6. Watch for dominant body postures (one dog putting his chin or neck on the shoulders of the other or placing a front foot over the other's shoulders). If the other dog submits to these postures that's fine (even if it's the resident dog), if not, interrupt them by calling them away from each other and having them sit.
7. Until the dogs are comfortable with each other do not let them be together in a small space like a car or hallway.
8. Until the dogs are comfortable with each other do not leave them alone unsupervised.
9. Allow a natural dominance hierarchy to develop.
10. Whenever the dogs approach each other, speak in a happy, encouraging voice. If they are behaving well together, give treats so they associate good things with each other's presence.
11. Go slowly, if they don't do well at first, separate them except during managed interactions. Make sure all interactions are positive using happy voice and treats.
12. **DO NOT USE PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT** if fighting breaks out. Try a loud noise or a squirt of water to interrupt the interaction. Then call the dogs to you and make them sit.



## Introducing a New Dog to Children

13. The child should be standing still or sitting when the dog is first introduced.
14. With dog on leash, let the dog approach the child instead of the child approaching the dog.
15. Have the child toss small treats on the ground as the dog approaches.
16. Tell the child not to look directly into the dog's eyes or reach toward, lean over, or hug the dog.
17. When the dog looks comfortable picking up the treats from the ground at the child's feet, have the child hold her hand at her side with a treat in her fist. She should not move her hand toward the dog.
18. When the dog sniffs her hand, she can slowly open her fist and allow the dog to take the treat from her open palm. Repeat this over and over.
19. When the dog is comfortable taking the treat from the child, she can gently scratch him under the chin as he does so (never reach over his head).
20. The child can then ask the dog to "sit" for a treat reward.
21. Gradually introduce more interaction (petting and stroking) if dog is doing well.
22. If the dog is fearful, DO NOT tighten up on the leash or require him to sit-stay. This may increase his fear because he cannot back away. Do not force scary interactions on the dog.
23. If the dog is not fearful but is boisterous and jumping up instead, require him to sit for a treat (a gentle leader head halter can help with boisterous dogs).
24. DO NOT leave the dog and child unsupervised.
25. DO NOT use physical punishment at any time. If the dog is jumping, have the child walk away and only return when he is sitting calmly.
26. Teach your child appropriate behavior around dogs.



## **Introducing a New Dog to a Resident Cat**

When you bring your new dog home do not let him have full access to the house. Confine him to one or two rooms using baby gates. Let your cat investigate this newcomer at her own pace. She will most likely sneak a peek and then run off. Eventually she may become brave enough to go up to the baby gate for a closer look; when she does, praise her and give her a treat for her daringness. Keep the dog confined until the cat is comfortable moving about the house and approaching the baby gate to investigate.

Next you will set up some controlled meetings. Put the dog on lead and walk him into the room where the cat is sitting. Walk him around the room on a loose lead (a tight lead will transmit your anxiety about the situation to the dog). Do not allow the dog to act inappropriately toward the cat (barking, lunging, chasing). A mild correction ("no") and a request to "sit" should suffice. If the correction is too severe the dog will associate getting into trouble with the cat. Reward calm behavior from the dog using praise and food treats. In addition, give an extra special treat to the cat (tuna works well) when the dog is in the room to help make a positive association in her mind about the presence of the dog.

Expect a certain amount of hissing, swatting, and growling from your cat. Do not punish her for this or she will associate the dog with the punishment. Be patient, let her get used to the idea of this big goofy dog sharing her home.

Repeat these controlled meetings until both animals remain calm and relaxed with each other. Don't let the dog have free run of the house unless you are present until you are sure they are fine together. This could take weeks to months. Don't expect too much too soon.



# Other Useful Information



**What Bellwether Charges for a minimal adoption fee:**

<b>Dog</b>	<b>Spayed/Neutered + Microchip</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>
<b>Cat</b>	<b>Spayed/Neutered + Microchip</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>

**Average cost of care at a local veterinary office**

Bellwether Harbor charges a minimal adoption fee to help defray some of the cost the Harbor incurs while caring for the animals in the shelter. Expenses vary depending upon the length of time the animal is in the shelter, and the age and gender of the animal. Below you will find the average cost of care at local veterinary hospitals.

**Cats:**

- \$42.00 Combo Test
- \$73.00 Bartonella Test
- \$100-\$135 All vaccines with boosters
- \$60-\$165 Alteration
- \$51.00 Microchip
- \$20-\$50 De-worming/Fecal tests

**\$346-\$516 TOTAL**

**Dogs:**

- \$30.00 Heartworm Test
- \$60.00 Heartworm Prev. (8 mo.)
- \$150-\$195 All vaccines with boosters
- \$110-\$250 Alteration
- \$51.00 Microchip
- \$20-\$60 De-worming/Fecal tests

**\$421-\$546 TOTAL**

This cost does not include any special needs or additional vet care a cat may need. The cost will vary depending on the gender and age of the cat when you get it. Additional costs may include bloodwork, toenail trims, feline leukemia test, hernia repair, flea medication and food.

This cost does not include any special needs or additional vet care a dog may need. The cost will vary depending on the gender and age of the dog when you get it. Additional costs may include bloodwork, toe nail trims, hernia repair, flea medication, heartworm treatment, anal gland expression, dewclaw removal and food.

# Why Spay or Neuter?

*This low-cost surgery offers you and your pet many advantages.*

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## **Peace of Mind**

***Did you know that a spayed or neutered (sterilized) animal is better behaved?***

**Males:** Neutered cats and dogs focus their attention on their human families. On the other hand, unsterilized, unsupervised males roam in search of a mate, risking injury in traffic and in fights with other males. They mark territory by spraying strong-smelling urine on surfaces. Indoors, male dogs may embarrass you by mounting furniture and human legs when stimulated. Don't confuse aggressiveness with protectiveness; a neutered dog protects his home and family just as well as an unneutered dog, and many aggression problems can be avoided by early neutering.

**Females:** While their cycles vary greatly, most female cats exhibit the following signs when in heat. For four or five days, every three weeks during breeding season, they yowl and urinate more frequently sometimes all over the house advertising for mates. Often, they attract unneutered males who spray urine around the females' homes. Female dogs also attract males from great distances. Female dogs generally have a bloody discharge for about a week, and can conceive for another week or so.

## **Good Medicine**

***Did you know that a spayed or neutered animal will live a longer, healthier life?***

Spaying a female (removing the ovaries and uterus) or neutering a male (removing the testicles) are veterinary procedures performed under general anesthesia. Both surgeries usually require minimal hospitalization. The ASPCA strongly recommends spaying or neutering your pet as early as possible. Besides preventing unwanted breeding, neutering a male cat or dog before six months of age prevents testicular cancer and prostate disease. Spaying a female cat or dog helps prevent pyometra (a pus-filled uterus) and breast cancer; having this done before the first heat offers the best protection from these diseases. Treatment of pyometra requires hospitalization, intravenous (IV) fluids, antibiotics and spaying. Breast cancer can be fatal in about 50 percent of female dogs and 90 percent of female cats. For an older, seriously ill animal, anesthesia and surgery are complicated and costly.

## **Responsible Care**

***Did you know that you can help prevent the suffering and death of millions of animals?***

Almost everyone loves puppies and kittens, but some people lose interest when these animals grow up. As a result, millions of cats and dogs of all ages and breeds are euthanized annually or suffer as strays. Many of these are the result of unwanted, unplanned litters that could have been prevented by spaying or neutering. Rarely surviving for more than a few years on their own, strays die painfully by starvation, disease, freezing or being hit by cars.

## **Just the Facts, Please**

**MYTH:** A female cat or dog should have a litter before she is spayed.

**FACT:** The sooner you spay your female, the better her health will be in the future. As long as a kitten or puppy weighs more than 2 pounds and is 2 months old, he or she can be neutered or spayed. Many veterinarians practice perfectly safe early sterilization. The longer a female goes unspayed, the greater the likelihood of developing mammary tumors or uterine infections. In FACT, a female spayed before her first heat (6 to 9 months of age) has one-seventh the risk of developing mammary cancer as an intact female.

**MYTH:** Spaying or neutering (sterilization) will alter my pet's personality.

**FACT:** Any slight changes will be positive. Regardless of the age when spayed or neutered, your pet will remain a caring, loving and protective companion. Neutering will reduce the need to breed, and that has a calming effect on many animals. Both neutered male canines and felines tend to stop roaming and fighting, and they also lose the desire to mark their territory with urine.

**MYTH:** Companion animals will become fat and lazy if they are neutered.

**FACT:** Absolutely not! Lack of exercise and overfeeding make pets fat and lazy not neutering. Your pet will not gain weight if you provide exercise and monitor food intake. Neutering is good for your pet, since sterilized pets tend to live an average of two to three years longer than unsterilized pets.

**MYTH:** Sterilization is a dangerous and painful surgery for my pet.

**FACT:** Spaying and neutering are the most common surgeries performed on animals. With a minimal amount of home care, your pet will resume normal behavior in a couple of days.

**MYTH:** Children should witness the miracle of birth.

**FACT:** Countless books and videos are available to teach your children about birth in a responsible manner. Letting your pet produce offspring that you have no intention of keeping is teaching your children irresponsibility. Anyone who has seen an animal euthanized in a shelter for lack of a home knows the truth behind this dangerous MYTH.

Many states and counties have established low-cost spay/neuter programs that make the surgery affordable. Many cities also offer reduced licensing fees for owners of spayed and neutered pets. To find a low-cost program near you, call your local humane society or shelter, or call toll-free (800) 248-SPAY.

*The ASPCA The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals National Headquarters  
424 E. 92nd St. New York, NY 10128-6804 (212) 876-7700*

Courtesy of **ASPCA**  
[www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org)



# PLEDGE FOR NEW DOG ADOPTERS

By Sue Sternberg

Rondout Valley Animals for Adoption



- I pledge to make a reasonable commitment of time and effort, and to affect scheduling and lifestyle changes in order to make this relationship work.
- I pledge to make sure my dog is not exposed to the elements of weather without proper shelter, shade cover, dry ground, access to fresh water and at least 1 hour of loving companionship and play a day (I understand this is a minimum and will strive to keep the dog with me as much as possible and treat him/her as an important member of my family).
- I pledge to provide appropriate and timely veterinary care for the life of my dog.
- I pledge to provide my dog with the proper nutrition for optimum health, and to keep my dog the proper weight, neither obese nor emaciated.
- I pledge to keep this dog indoors at night, and to include him/her in the activities of the household while we are home, as much as possible.
- I pledge to keep my dog groomed and free of external parasites and matting (particularly behind my dog's ears, under his elbows, his tail and thighs).
- I pledge to spay or neuter my dog, if he/she is not already.
- I pledge to give my dog ample aerobic exercise daily, and make sure that at least three times a week he gets to run and play and get tired out.
- I pledge to provide my dog with mental stimulation in the form of either play, interactive toys, training, or off territory leash walks, DAILY.
- I pledge to provide my dog with enough training and/or behavioral management so as to enable him to be a welcome part of my community, or managed safely.
- I pledge to provide my dog ample outlets for his instincts (such as off territory leash walks/running, opportunities to sniff and explore the natural world, agility training, trick training, fun and rewarding obedience training, play with other dogs, etc.), so that he does not feel constantly frustrated, or develop behavioral problems because he is neglected or under stimulated.
- I pledge to provide a home in which my dog clearly knows there are certain rules to which I will insist on and he can count on.
- I pledge to provide my dog with enough toys to satisfy his urge to chew.
- I pledge to get professional help if my dog has or develops behavior or temperament problems, and, if safe, to manage my dog carefully so as not to endanger the people and other pets in my community.
- I pledge to do everything I can to keep my dog from becoming a nuisance in my community.
- I will not allow him to run free/out of my control, chase cars, bicycles, children, etc.
- I will seek professional help to get my dog to be quiet, or keep him quiet both when I am home and away, so as not to disturb my neighbors.
- I pledge to "scoop poop" from my dog when off my property, so that my dog and other dogs will always be welcome in public.
- I pledge that if I have to move residences for any reason, I am aware that finding housing that accepts pets can take longer than average, but that I will commit to moving with my dog, as I would move with a member of my family.
- I pledge that if, for any reason, I can no longer keep this dog, I will not abandon this dog, and
- I will return the dog to the shelter (if required) or leave ample time to find a new, appropriate home, tell the new owners truthfully all the dog's behaviors, good and bad, and follow up occasionally to make sure the dog is safe and content.

# 🐾 Doggie Instruction Manual 🐾

I will live to be 12-15 years old.  
If you leave me behind at some point,  
I will grieve for you for all the rest of my days.

It will take awhile for me to understand the rules.  
Please be patient with me.

Trust in me.  
My well-being depends upon it.

Don't be mad at me, lock me up, and leave me.  
You are my whole world and being separated from you hurts me terribly.

I love the sound of your voice so talk to me.  
Believe it or not I can understand you.

Treat me well, dear Master.  
I will always remember how you cared for me.

Please don't hit me.  
My bones break just like yours.  
I wear my feelings on my sleeve too.

If I do not do as you ask, please do not assume I am a bad dog.  
I may have a tummy ache or be hearing impaired and this is how I communicate that.

When I grow old and my hips go bad, please care for me.  
Someday you will grow old too.

When the difficult journey comes, do not say "It is too hard" or "I can't bear to watch it".  
I want to leave the earth in your loving arms, not in a cold room full of strangers.

Most of all, thank you for loving me.  
I will be faithful to you all the days of my life, if you let me...





## Why Dogs and Pickup Trucks Don't Mix

Dogs who are riding in the backs of pickup trucks may look like they're having fun. Noses testing the wind and ears flopping, they seem to be enjoying the trip – and they get to go places with their owners. But they're not safe. When you transport your dog in the open bed of your pickup, you endanger both your dog and other motorists.

If your truck hits a bump, or if you step on the brakes suddenly or swerve to avoid an obstacle, your dog can easily be thrown from the truck bed and onto the road. Chances are, this will injure or kill your dog. But even if it doesn't, being struck by another vehicle probably will. Also, other drivers may cause an accident by swerving to avoid hitting your dog.

If you must transport your dog in a pickup truck, put him in the cab with you in a travel crate or other pet carrier. If you have an extended cab, have your pet ride in the back portion of the cab where he will be away from the front windshield. It is not safe for your dog to ride in the bed of a pickup even with a restraint. The HSUS knows of no brand of harness that has been proven safe in this situation. In fact, there have been cases where dogs restrained by leashes or harnesses have been strangled or dragged after being thrown from a truck bed.

Additionally, on hot sunny days, the truck bed can become extremely hot and the hot metal can burn your dog's feet.

There are other safety precautions that you should take anytime your pet goes for a ride, regardless of the type of vehicle. Be sure your dog wears a collar with an ID tag. When traveling long distances, have your dog wear two ID tags – one with a home address and one with a destination address. Never leave your dog in a vehicle unattended. On a warm day, the temperature can reach 120°F in a matter of minutes – even with the windows partially open.

The trip will be more enjoyable for both of you if you make sure that your dog will be safe and sound on arrival.



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