

Welcome Home Packet

Dog Adoption



Dear Adopter,

Thank you for choosing adoption and becoming a lifesaver! Your decision to adopt a pet from Multnomah County Animal Services (MCAS) has saved a life and has opened up a kennel for another pet in need.

At MCAS, we hope to set you up for success with your new family member. Your Adoption Counselor will send you home with information about your pet's health and history. Please review the information in this packet for more helpful tips about caring for your new pet.

If you have any questions about your new pet or the adoption process, please email us at mail.pet@multco.us.

– The MCAS Adoption Team



 **Multnomah
County
Animal Services**



NEW DOG CHECKLIST

MCAS has a brief recommend list of "must-haves" for your new dog

BASICS

- ✓ AGE AND SPECIES APPROPRIATE FOOD
- ✓ PET STAIN AND ODOR/ENZYME REMOVER
- ✓ SHAMPOO/GROOMING BRUSHES
- ✓ COLLAR OR HARNESS/LEASHES
- ✓ PERSONAL ID TAGS
- ✓ CRATE, CARRIER AND/OR BABY GATE
- ✓ WATER AND FOOD BOWLS
- ✓ POOP BAGS/POOP SCOOPER
- ✓ BEDDING, BLANKETS, TOWELS

FUN & GAMES

- ✓ FOOD DISPENSING TOYS
- ✓ DURABLE, TOUGH TOYS
- ✓ TRAINING TREATS TO LEARN NEW THINGS
- ✓ PUZZLE TOYS
- ✓ KONGS, KONG WOBBLERS
- ✓ LONG LASTING CHEW TREATS

PET OWNER CHECKLIST

After you take your pet home, you'll need to keep up with your pet's microchip and licensing information, vaccinations, and preventatives on a regular basis!

MICROCHIP

A microchip is a small, electronic chip enclosed in a glass cylinder that is about the same size as a grain of rice. The microchips presently used in pets only contain identification numbers. No, the microchip is not a GPS device and cannot track your animal if it gets lost. This is why it's important to make sure your information is up to date anytime it changes.

At the time of your adoption, MCAS registers your pet's microchip with 24Petwatch. However, there are a few additional steps you need to take to make sure the microchip will be useful in helping your lost pet find their way home.

Call 24PetWatch at 1-866-597-2424 and select option 1 (Available 24/7)

Here you will be able to verify the pet information and your contact information. you can also authorize to release to someone who may find your lost pet. Without this authorization, your information can only be released to an animal shelter/clinic).

Scan yearly: Microchips can move!

It's rare but possible for microchips to move. At your yearly vet visit, ask your vet to confirm that the chip is still easily found.

If your pet goes missing, be proactive!

Call 24PetWatch immediately to report your pet as missing. Check with local shelters and check/post on social media pages such as Facebook and Nextdoor.

Update contact information immediately if it changes.

Call 24PetWatch at 1-866-597-2424 to have any contact information updated.

PET OWNER CHECKLIST... CONTINUED

LICENSING

The state of Oregon requires you to maintain a current license with your residing county for dogs and cats. If you reside in Multnomah County, MCAS will assist with a license at the time of adoption, but it will be your responsibility to ensure your license remains current and up to date.

✔ Visit <https://www.multcopets.org/licensing-information>

Here you will be able to renew an existing or purchase a new license. You can also view participating vet clinics that are authorized license vendors, and can assist you in this process.

VACCINATIONS

MCAS vaccinates every pet that comes to our shelter. However, some pets will need additional vaccines to stay healthy.

Puppies need frequent vaccinations:

- ✔ 1st Round Puppy (6-8 weeks old): DAPPv and Dewormer
- ✔ 2nd Round Puppy (9-11 weeks old): DAPPv Booster, Bordetella and Dewormer
- ✔ 3rd Round Puppy (3 months old): Rabies, DAPPv Booster, Bordetella Booster and Dewormer

DO NOT take your puppy to a dog park or have them near unknown dogs until they have had their third round of vaccines.

All adult dogs should receive the following ANNUALLY:

- ✔ Rabies Booster
- ✔ DAPPv Booster
- ✔ Bordetella Booster
- ✔ General Dewormer



PREVENTATIVES

It is important to speak to your veterinarian about including the following preventatives in your pet's routine!

✔ **Flea/Tick Preventative**

Fleas and ticks can be a problem for pets all year round, especially if your pet frequently goes outside. Speak with your veterinarian about the best products to prevent fleas and ticks on your pet.

If you ever have any questions concerning your pet's health, please speak with your veterinarian.

THE 3 DAYS, 3 WEEKS, 3 MONTHS RULE OF TAKING HOME A DOG

The 3-3-3 rule is a general guideline. Every pet is unique and will adjust differently. Give your pet space to go at their own pace.

3D

IN THE FIRST 3 DAYS



I MIGHT BE...

Feeling overwhelmed

Feeling unsure

Not comfortable enough to show personality

May not want to eat or drink

Shut down and may curl up in crate or hide under a table

3W

AFTER 3 WEEKS



I MIGHT BE...

Feeling more comfortable

Starting to settle in

Getting into a routine

May start showing true personality

Testing boundaries

3M

AFTER 3 MONTHS



I MIGHT BE...

Feeling comfortable in the home

Building trust and a true bond

Gained a complete sense of security with their new family

Set in a routine



If the pet you've adopted is not the right fit, we do take returns *within 30 days* and can assist with rehoming.

Please visit [Multcopets.org](https://www.multcopets.org) for more information.

Adopting a new dog is all about changes for both of you. Use this guide to make the first few weeks fun and stress-free. You will build a foundation for a lasting relationship if you follow these steps to ...



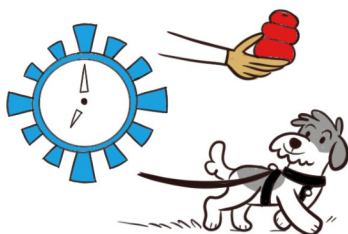
Decompress for SUCCESS

By DOG LATIN DOG TRAINING & BEHAVIOR CONSULTING™



ROUTINE

Dogs crave predictability. Stick to the same times when feeding, walking, training, and departing from your home.



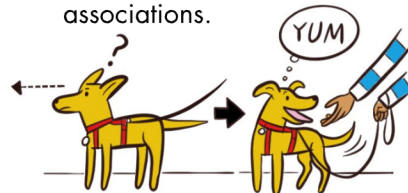
PRIVACY

Dogs, like people, need time to themselves. Create a spot with a crate or mat. Call your dog to leave their space, rather than invading their space.



POSITIVE SOCIALIZATION

Limit interactions with new people, places, and things. Let your dog explore gradually in short sessions. Build positive associations.



TRAIN AT HOME FIRST

Start positive reinforcement training at home for a distraction-free setting. This is the fastest, clearest way to establish communication.



TRAIN WITH FOOD

Shift calories out of the food bowl and use in short (5 minute) training sessions. Spread training sessions throughout the day, including reinforcing loose leash walking.



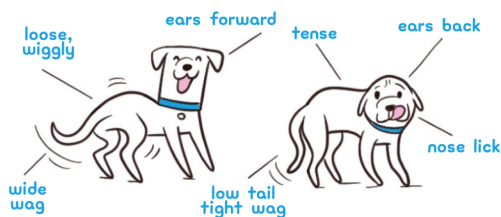
AVOID LEASH GREETINGS

Meeting other dogs can be stressful. Dogs don't always like each other. Limit or avoid greetings until you learn more about how your dog shows unease.



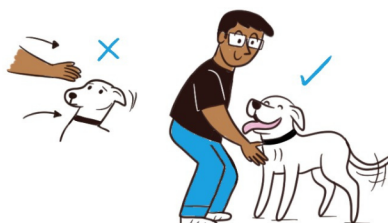
OBSERVE YOUR DOG

When your dog is relaxed, what do their ears, mouth, tail position, and entire body look like? Learn your dog's body language to know when your dog is concerned and to identify triggers.



LET YOUR DOG INITIATE CONTACT

Let your dog initiate contact with people. Never force an interaction. If your dog solicits attention, pet on the chest, not on top of the head.



HAVE FUN WITH YOUR DOG!

Playing, feeding, walking, and interacting with your new dog builds a lasting bond. Take it easy the first month and get to know each other before widening the circle. After all, you have a lifetime together!



DOGGIE LANGUAGE

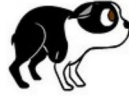
starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



ALERT



SUSPICIOUS



ANXIOUS



THREATENED



ANGRY



"PEACE!"
look away/head turn



STRESSED
yawn



STRESSED
nose lick



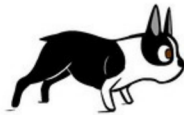
"PEACE!"
sniff ground



"RESPECT!"
turn & walk away



"NEED SPACE"
whale eye



STALKING



STRESSED
scratching



STRESS RELEASE
shake off



RELAXED
soft ears, blinky eyes



"RESPECT!"
offer his back



FRIENDLY & POLITE
curved body



FRIENDLY



"PRETTY PLEASE"
round puppy face



"I'M YOUR LOVEBUG"
belly-rub pose



"HELLO I LOVE YOU!"
greeting stretch



"I'M FRIENDLY!"
play bow



"READY!"
prey bow



"YOU WILL FEED ME"



CURIOUS
head tilt



HAPPY
(or hot)



OVERJOYED
wiggly



"MMM...."



"I LOVE YOU,
DON'T STOP"

Common Canine Illnesses

We often compare animal shelters to child daycare centers because of their ability to harbor contagious illness. To keep pets safe, MCAS follows disease mitigation practices, but it is still possible that your new pet may have been exposed to an illness either before arriving at MCAS or during their time here. Many illnesses take several weeks after exposure to become symptomatic, so we ask that you keep an eye out for symptoms of common canine illnesses, which are listed below.

Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease Complex (Kennel Cough)

Kennel Cough is a highly contagious respiratory illness that is common in shelters, veterinary clinics, boarding facilities, and dog parks. The biggest sign to watch for is coughing (often in spasms); coughing episodes may be triggered by excitement, activity, or pressure on the neck (like pulling against a collar). Pneumonia and other generalized signs (nasal discharge, fever, decreased appetite, respiratory difficulty) may occur with more serious infections. Kennel Cough is highly treatable with cough-suppressant medications and most infections do not require antibiotics.

Canine Distemper

Canine distemper is a contagious viral infection in dogs that may cause respiratory, urogenital (urinary and genital), gastrointestinal, ocular (eye), and central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) signs. The infection weakens the immune system, making the animal more susceptible to other diseases; common signs vary and depend on the strength of the dog's immune system. Initially, signs of respiratory infection may occur, with severe ocular and nasal discharge, cough, and fever. Additional signs include loss of appetite, vomiting, and diarrhea. Nervous system signs include mental dullness, lethargy, unresponsiveness, disorientation, blindness, imbalance, and seizures. There is no specific treatment for a distemper infection but supportive care can be administered. Affected dogs must be kept isolated from other dogs because the disease is so contagious. Though it is not fatal in all cases, canine distemper causes severe debilitation and death in many cases.

Parvovirus

Canine Parvovirus (CPV) is very contagious and causes a gastrointestinal (GI) disease. It is most common in dogs that are young and unvaccinated. The virus is highly concentrated in the feces of infected animals and it remains in the environment under a variety of conditions and is resistant to many common disinfectants. Because of this resiliency, it can be carried on inanimate objects such as shoes, clothing, and other materials that touch infected substances. Primary signs of Parvovirus include diminished appetite, vomiting, lethargy, and diarrhea. Vomiting is often severe, and diarrhea may be profuse and bloody. Fever may be present and animals can become severely dehydrated very quickly. Treatment of CPV is largely supportive, with intravenous fluids and sometimes plasma transfusions. Early identification and treatment are imperative for a full recovery.



If you see signs of these illnesses in your newly adopted pet within 14 days, you can contact MCAS for possible treatment options. However, in the case of a critical emergency, please see a veterinarian immediately.

THE BASICS

CRATE TRAINING

Dogs are den animals, and, with a little training, most dogs will learn to enjoy the peace and quiet of their crate. For a new dog or puppy, a crate is an important tool for potty-training. Dogs do not want to urinate where they sleep, so a crate will help teach your dog or puppy to hold their bladder. Crates can also offer a safe space for the dog to have all of their own.

As long as we aren't using crating for punishment, it can also help correct some undesirable behaviors, such as destructive chewing.

What Type of Crate Should I Use?

Plastic and metal wire crates are widely available in stores, and both can be used in the home. Wire crates offer more room for the dog to turn around and lay down, and are easy to take apart. Go with what works best for you and your pup! The crate should be big enough for your dog to stand up and easily turn around.

How to Acclimate to a Crate

Start feeding your pup around the crate. Begin by setting the bowl in front of the crate.

Over the next several days (or longer, depending on the dog's comfort level), gradually move the bowl further into the crate. DO NOT close the gate until your dog has eaten a few meals inside the crate.

Next, start closing the door while they're eating. At first, open the door as soon as they are finished eating. Increase the time yto over several mealtimes until they can stay in the crate calmly for up to ten minutes after eating.

If at any point they begin to bark or cry or paw at the gate, DO NOT open the gate until they have stopped. Otherwise, your dog will think complaining will make the gate open!

Helpful Tips

If your pet is tired, they'll be faster to lay down and go to sleep when you leave, versus anxiously waiting for you to return home. Giving them plenty of exercise before they are crated will help them relax. Ideally, we don't want to crate a dog for longer than they're used to.

THE BASICS... CONTINUED

HOUSE-TRAINING

Accidents happen! Even a dog that was previously house trained will have accidents in a new home. Every dog is different. A puppy may take several months to potty train because their body is still growing. Some adult dogs will take a few days, some may take a few months. Here are some key points to keep in mind during this process.

Holding It: Every dog has a time limit.

Puppies under six months are typically unable to hold it in for more than a few hours. Prepare for this! A healthy adult dog can hold it for 6-10 hours in a crate or overnight. There are, of course, always exceptions.

Frequent Outings = Fewer Accidents!

Take your new dog outside every 1 to 2 hours. Puppies might need to go potty every 15 to 30 minutes during the day.. Walk them and let them sniff for at least 15 minutes. When your dog finally potties outside, reward them with food and play a fun game.

Reward for Good Behavior, Ignore the bad.

NEVER scold a dog for going potty inside, especially if you catch them in the act. The dog will think he is being punished for going potty. If your dog starts to potty inside, interrupt them, and immediately take them outside to finish. It will be helpful to keep a leash on your dog during this time.

Prevention and Redirection

The biggest mistake new dog owners make is giving their new dog too much freedom too soon. In the first few weeks of having your new dog, make sure to watch them at all times. If you cannot watch your dog, put them in a kennel or pen with something to chew on. Look for signs that they need to use the bathroom, such as sniffing in a particular area or walking in circles, and quickly take them outside. As soon as your dog goes potty, reward them with food and play.

If you're having difficulty with frequent inappropriate urination or bowel movements, contact your vet to rule out possible medical causes.

THE BASICS... CONTINUED

DOG TO DOG INTRODUCTIONS

The first introduction between your new dog and your current dog(s) is an essential part of a successful adoption! First, understand that dogs aren't all that different from people – they have personal space just like we do, and may become offended when a stranger invades that space.

Start on Neutral Territory

Never introduce a new dog to a current dog inside your home or backyard. Have a family member or friend bring the current dog to a neutral location to meet the new dog. The dogs should be able to walk around and sniff without fixating on each other. When both dogs seem relaxed, allow them to meet on loose leashes. Once both dogs have introduced themselves, typically by sniffing each other, continue the walk, but this time together. This gives each dog the opportunity to focus on something other than the new dog.

Pick Up Food and Toys

Many dogs feel the need to protect their resources such as toys and food. To avoid conflict in the first few weeks, remove these items. You can slowly re-introduce toys as the dogs feel more comfortable with each other and show that they are able to play nicely. We recommend separating both dogs into different rooms or kennels to feed them. This will allow both dogs to eat without feeling rushed or feeling the need to guard their food from the other dog.

Give Each Dog Alone Time

It is okay to separate your dogs in order to give each dog time alone. This is especially important for families that bring a new puppy into a home with an older dog. Puppies do not understand when to stop playing! Watch for signs that your dog wants to be left alone, such as trying to run away, turning their head to avoid confrontation, or curling their lip to show teeth. If you see these signs, remove the dog that is doing the pestering by placing them in a kennel with a chew.

***Never leave two dogs that have just met unattended.
If you must leave, place the dogs into their kennels with a toy or chew.
Consult a professional if you feel uneasy at any point in the introduction process.***

THE BASICS... CONTINUED

CAT TO DOG INTRODUCTIONS

Whether you're adopting a new dog or cat, the first introduction between your pets critical to long term success. Here are three steps that can help you ensure a successful meeting.

Let Them Settle

Give your new pet time to decompress. The shelter and car ride can be stressful, so set up a room in the home where your new companion can get adjusted away from resident pets. First impressions are important, so take your time to introduce your pets.

Separation Now = Success Later!

Over a few days, rotate which pet has the freedom and which is confined, to allow each pet plenty of time to learn the other's scent. When no one is home, the dog or cat must always be separated. Once both animals are regularly eating, sleeping, and using the litter box, you can proceed to the next step.

Make the (Leashed) Introductions

Allow both pets to be in the same room at the same time but keep the dog on a leash or in a kennel. When your dog is calm or friendly, reward them with a treat. Continue with this introduction until the dog and cat are calm and appear relaxed around each other. If either pet becomes aggressive, stop and return to the previous step. Make sure your cat always has an escape path. The pets should not be left unsupervised together. This step may take days, weeks, or even months.

Once the two pets are consistently relaxed in each other's presence, you can begin to allow them more freedom to move around the house.

***Never leave two pets that have just met unattended.
Consult a professional if you feel uneasy at any point in the introduction process.***