



**Heartland
Humane**
shelter & care

Dog Adoption Handbook

Heartland Humane Shelter & Care

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Free Veterinary Exam

Shelter pets that exhibit signs of illness are seen by a veterinarian while in our care, and any known illnesses will be disclosed upon adoption. Heartland Humane encourages you to take your new pet to a veterinarian for a routine examination as soon as possible. Many local veterinarians will waive their exam fee if you schedule your appointment within ten days. While the examination is free, you will be charged for any products, vaccinations, or medications your veterinarian recommends during the appointment. If your pet becomes seriously ill, or an undiagnosed condition is discovered during this exam, please contact the shelter immediately if you would like to discuss returning the pet. Please note that if you choose to treat an ill pet, the medical fees are your responsibility.

Heartland Humane will always take our animals back, regardless of how much time has passed since your adoption. We do not offer refunds on adoptions, with limited exceptions for extreme cases of undiagnosed illness discovered during the initial veterinary appointment.

New Dog Supply Checklist

Your new pet will require the following gear:

- Leash, collar, and ID tag
- Food and water bowls
- High quality dog food
- Chew toys
- Brush
- Bed and/or crate mat
- Shampoo
- Flea and parasite control products*
- Crate (optional, highly recommended)

*We recommend using a product prescribed by your veterinarian.

Adjusting to Their New Life

Take a moment to think about the transition your pet is going through. For many shelter dogs, little is known about their former life. Your dog has had to adjust to the stress of a kennel environment and now they must adjust to a new home with new people. Every new experience, pleasant or traumatic, will have a lasting impact on their behavior.

Fortunately, dogs are resilient and adaptable animals with a strong instinct to bond with human beings. Be kind, consistent, and clear in your expectations. Most importantly, give your new dog time to adjust. It is common for dogs to display behavior problems during the first few weeks in a new home, but these problems usually disappear if the guardian handles them with understanding and consistency. Patience and training are key.

Once your dog feels comfortable in their new home, they may begin to test the boundaries of permissible behavior. If you are consistent with your training and your rules, your dog will learn the house rules and expectations. Remember to always be consistent.

The 3-3-3 Rule

The adjustment period for rescue dogs can generally be broken down into 3 days, 3 weeks, and 3 months. This is a general guide, and every pet is an individual. If you are prepared for these possible behaviors, you will be able to give your dog space and time to adjust to your home at their own pace.

In the first 3 days:

- Feeling overwhelmed
- May be scared and unsure of what is going on
- Not comfortable enough to be 'themselves'
- May not want to eat or drink
- May shut down and want to hide, or curl up in their crate
- Testing boundaries

After 3 weeks:

- Starting to settle in
- Feeling more comfortable
- Realizing this could possibly be their forever home
- Figured out their environment
- Getting into a routine
- Lets their guard down and may start showing their true personality
- Behavior issues may start showing up

After 3 months:

- Finally completely comfortable in their home
- Building trust and a true bond
- Gained a complete sense of security with their new family
- Set in a routine

*Note: For dogs with high levels of stress and/or anxiety, these stages can generally be translated into 6 days, 6 weeks, and 6 months.

The First Few Hours At Home

As soon as you are home, take your new dog to the area of the yard that will be their permanent "bathroom" area. Wait for them to urinate or defecate and praise them for using this area.

Allow your dog to investigate their new surroundings. If you have other pets, please refer to the "Introducing Your Pet to Established Pets" section.

Show your dog their sleeping area, chew toys, and empty dishes (which should be placed in their permanent locations). Don't offer food or water during their first hour home. Excited pets may gulp excessive amounts of food or water and then vomit.

Don't overwhelm your dog with attention or play. Give them time and space to become familiar with their new surroundings. Be sure that small, chewable items are placed out of reach. Remove things like children's toys, shoes, and throw rugs, and close doors to rooms that are off-limits. Pet gates are a useful tool to aid in the separation of areas.

The First Night

The first night is critical for new dogs, especially puppies. A puppy should not be left isolated to whine or bark. If possible, have your dog sleep in a crate in a bedroom. A hot water bottle wrapped in a towel may comfort a puppy who has been recently separated from their littermates. The puppy will usually feel secure in a crate (or box, if you do not have a crate). In the morning, take the puppy or dog out to the bathroom area as soon as they are awake. Young puppies may not be able to “hold it” all night and will need frequent potty trips while their bladder matures with age.

Your Dog’s Sleeping Area

Your dog will need their own sleeping area in a quiet corner, away from drafts and household traffic. Their bedding should be soft and easily washable. A crate makes a great bed and a safe place to confine them at night to prevent them from getting into trouble. A comfortable crate, lined with blankets and towels, or a crate mat, can become a cozy spot that is just for your pet. Don't allow family members to disturb the dog while resting. The crate is the dog's domain only; please don't allow kids to play in it. Adult dogs prefer to be near their guardians. Allowing them to sleep in the same bedroom, in their own bed or crate, is fine if you are willing to make it a permanent arrangement. Letting a dog to sleep in your bed teaches them that is acceptable behavior. If you don't want the new dog to sleep on your bed or on the couch regularly, don't allow them to do it now. Select the dog's permanent bedroom in the beginning so that they know what the rules are. Giving your dog a treat once they have settled in their bed or crate will reward good behavior and make bedtime a pleasant ritual for both of you. If you wish for your new dog to sleep in their crate, feeding them in the crate can help teach them that it is a safe space. Not all dogs are crate trained, and it may initially be a very scary activity for your dog. Keep all interactions with their crate positive and avoid using it as a punishment. See the “Crate Training” section for more information.

Introducing Your Pet to Established Pets

The ability of pets to get along in a household depends on the individual personalities of each animal. Dogs form hierarchical relationships with their own species. This means that one dog will have access to resources first (toys, food, water, people, spaces, etc.). Some conflict can be expected as they adjust to their new home and routine. Calm handling of the introductory period will ensure a successful introduction of the new pet. The first few weeks may be hectic, frustrating, and time-consuming. Be patient and remember that this adjustment takes time. If you are concerned about behavior occurring during this time, contact the shelter for advice from our trainer and adoption professionals. In certain cases, we may refer you to a dog trainer who can tailor a solution to your specific home.

New Dog/Established Dog: Two adult dogs may become friends in the same home, but

it takes some time. Introduce the dogs to each other on neutral territory- a park or neighbor's yard. They should be on-leash and supervised by adults. The dogs will need to establish a rank order and learn about their new companion. This is natural for dogs. Sniffing, tail wagging, urinating, growling, and mounting behaviors are common during this introductory session. If one dog becomes aggressive, separate the dogs and give them a chance to relax and decompress. Adjustment periods do take lots of time, but if the situation is escalating instead of improving, reach out to a professional for assistance. Not every dog will get along with every other dog- this is normal. Give them time to get along and praise positive interaction. **Keep both dogs on leashes for the first few days, even when indoors, so you can quickly interrupt/prevent any unwanted behavior.** Do not take your dogs off-leash until they can be trusted to coexist peacefully. You may want to use the leashes to keep them apart while learning to share space and be in the same room.

Be sure to spend some special time with your established dog by playing a game or taking them through their obedience commands (a perfect way for them to earn your praise while ensuring that the old house rules still apply). Don't disrupt your established dog's feeding or exercise routines. and do not let a puppy continually harass an adult dog. Create separate areas for the dogs to get away from each other. You will have to function as the referee for their interactions for a while. Interrupt any unwanted behaviors and redirect them towards something more acceptable. If either dog is overly excited or bothersome, intercede and have them take a break so that the other dog does not feel the need to respond to their intrusive behavior.

Sharing Resources: Dogs should each have their own food bowls, toys, and sleeping areas. Don't expect the old dog to share toys or a bed. Competition over food and attention is normal behavior. Allow equal time for each dog and feed them in separate areas. Feeding each dog in their crate works well.

Do not leave the dogs alone together until they have accepted each other and have established the boundaries and rules for their new family. Confine them separately while you are away.

New Dog/Established Cat: Introduce your new dog and resident cat while you are supervising. Keep your new dog on a leash and teach the dog that calm behavior is the only behavior that will be tolerated and earn them rewards when interacting with the cat. Your cat should have a safe retreat from the dog - either up high or in a room that isn't accessible to the dog. Pet gates with small cat gates in the bottom are great! An adult cat may hiss and swat at the new dog to tell the dog to give them space and back away. It is an expression of fear and worry. Keep your dog leashed until they have learned to give the cat space, if that is what the cat would like. Do not force interaction.

Watch their first interactions carefully, especially if your cat is a kitten. Your cat may hide from the new dog. Give your cat time to decide when they are ready to face the new family member and help keep the dog away from them until they initiate contact. Reassure and be patient with your cat. Never push a cat and dog to interact with each other. Many pets become playmates and friends, while others simply learn to tolerate each other.

Don't leave the pets alone together until you are no longer seeing any concerning

If you are having trouble with pet-to-pet adjustment, please call the shelter, as we may be able to help. Remember: it is better to go slowly than to rush the process and risk exacerbating any tension between your pets.

New Dog/Dogs Owned by Friends and Family: The best thing to do is wait before introducing your dog to other pets who do not live in their home. Remember that you are still getting to know your new dog, and cannot predict their behaviors in new situations. They are still learning to trust you and to understand your commands and directions.

If you must bring your new dog somewhere that has a resident dog, make sure you have a safe place to put your dog if needed. This should not be your car, as interior car temperatures can rise rapidly. When you do introduce your dog to your others' pets, it can help to do so on neutral ground or while taking a walk, rather than bringing one dog into the other's house or territory.

Asking for Help

If you are having trouble with pet-to-pet adjustment, please call the shelter as we may be able to help. Remember: it is better to go slowly than to rush the process and risk exacerbating any tension between your pets.

Feeding

Proper nutrition is the essential foundation of a long, happy, healthy life for your dog. Select good quality dog food. Check the bag for an AAFCO nutritional adequacy statement and make sure it matches the life stage of your dog (e.g. adult, or all life stages). This signifies that the food has been tested and found to provide complete and balanced nutrition for that phase of your dog's life cycle.

Puppies under one year of age should generally be fed food specially designed to meet the nutritional needs of a growing animal. You should, however, check with your veterinarian about the appropriate food for your particular dog. Some breeds, particularly the giant and toy breeds, have special requirements. Do not use supplements unless they are prescribed by your veterinarian. If your dog is eating the correct food, supplements can do more harm than good.

Dry food is the most convenient and helps keep teeth and gums healthy. Table food and scraps are not recommended, even as training treats, as the fat, sugar, and sodium levels can

be unhealthy for your dog. Many human foods are toxic to dogs. If you cannot resist feeding an occasional scrap, like a small piece of meat or vegetables, give them away from the table after you are finished eating. Avoid feeding bones and spicy or rich foods. Bones can get caught in your dog's esophagus, cause digestive issues, or fracture teeth.

When to Feed

Check with your veterinarian when you take your dog in for its health check. Generally, puppies under three months should be fed four times a day at regular intervals: morning, noon, evening, and bedtime. At six months, eliminate the noon meal. Let the dog go outside to relieve themselves and then allow for a quiet period after feeding.

When the dog is a year old, you may switch to a single daily feeding. Some dogs, however, do better on two smaller portions daily, particularly large or toy breeds. Breeds who have the tendency towards gastric bloat (a potentially lethal condition) should be fed twice a day. Some dogs have anxiety about food insecurity. Small feedings on a regular schedule throughout the day can help alleviate this anxiety. It is important to establish a regular feeding schedule, as irregular feeding is confusing and may prevent successful housebreaking. Self-feeding is not recommended.

Fresh water should be available at all times.

How Much to Feed

The amount of food you feed your dog depends on their individual requirements and activity level. If you think you are feeding your dog an adequate amount, as directed on the food packaging, but they look thin or lose weight, have them examined by a veterinarian. Caring owners sometimes express their love by overfeeding a pet. Remember that obese pets have shorter life spans and are more prone to heart and respiratory problems as well as arthritis. Keep your dog healthy and happy by maintaining a proper weight.

A Caution About Raw Food and Fad Diets

Raw food diets carry significant risks to you and your pet. Foodborne illnesses such as salmonella are a very real concern with these diets and subsequent exposure to your dog's saliva or feces. Raw food diets are only appropriate when prescribed and formulated by a veterinary nutritionist. Pet nutrition is as susceptible to new trends and fads as any commercial sector. Consult with your veterinarian before jumping on the bandwagon of a new diet such as grain-free, raw, or vegetarian.

Food Guarding and Possession Aggression

Regardless of whether you are an experienced dog owner or a novice, we urge you to get a good training guide and to take professionally taught obedience classes. If you have adopted

a dog that is showing signs of aggression around the food bowl, contact a professional trainer immediately. Do not try any exercise that provokes an aggressive response from the dog.

Exercise

A tired dog is a calm, happy dog. All dogs need regular exercise, even the small breeds. Young dogs and dogs bred for working or sporting purposes are energetic and demand vigorous exercise. Dogs confined in fenced areas will not exercise by themselves. Dogs must be played with, walked, or worked. Energetic breeds that don't receive adequate exercise may have trouble calming down or may display destructive behaviors out of boredom. Plan an exercise program for your companion and stick to it! Mental stimulation is also tiring and very important to your dog's wellbeing. Make sure to include enrichment activities in your routine. Food puzzles, scent games, and agility are activities that can be done with supplies you already have at home. For example, dogs can practice agility and build confidence by jumping up on an overturned bucket, fire hydrant, or chair.

Quality Time

Many dogs are surrendered to Heartland Humane because their owners don't have time for them. While dogs do not expect constant attention, they do require companionship and time with their family. There are many different ways for you and your family to spend time with your dog. Dogs can join you for many of your everyday activities, so don't limit your time to dog-focused interactions. Teaching your dog good house manners when you first adopt them will help your dog become a welcome member of the family who can share in family activities. Most of the time, guardians who do not have time for their dogs have neglected to teach the dog how to be a well-mannered member of the family. Training early in your adoption process helps ensure a close bond and relationship between your dog and family. And yes, old dogs can learn new tricks!

Dogs can be trained even if you work away from home all day. If this is the case, keeping your dog with you in the evening is even more important.

Children & Dogs

The bond between children and dogs can be magical, but children must be taught the proper care and handling of dogs. Before you bring your new dog home, be sure to explain to the children that the dog cannot be handled or played with constantly. A resting or eating dog should never be bothered. Children must not chase a dog around the house. An overwhelmed or cornered dog may bite in self-defense or become intimidated by children. Don't leave young children alone with a new dog. Teach children the difference between playing and teasing. Supervise and encourage appropriate play.

Teach children the proper way to handle dogs. Unlike humans, dogs do not like hugs. While many can be conditioned to accept or even enjoy them, it is not a natural dog behavior and

can be stressful. It is common for dogs to be sensitive to the handling of their ears, mouth, tail, and paws. Teach your children to leave these areas alone outside of grooming. A puppy or small dog should be held with one hand under the chest and one hand supporting the hindquarters.

Children can learn many wonderful lessons from sharing in the care of pets, but do not expect children to assume full responsibility for your dog's care. An adult family member should supervise children to ensure that the dog is receiving proper care.

House Training

Establish only one area to be used as a bathroom area. Place food and water bowls near the door used to reach the bathroom area. Feed your dog on a regular schedule, and agree on one method all family members will use for feeding the dog. Use the same one-word command such as "outside" or "potty" when you let the dog out to do their business. Make sure all family members use this command. Take your dog to their bathroom area on a frequent basis and praise them when they urinate or defecate.

A puppy's need to urinate or defecate is usually stimulated after eating, drinking, or chewing, after waking, and after play periods. Take your puppy outside to the bathroom area immediately following any of these activities (but about 15 minutes after eating). Stay with the puppy and praise them with enthusiasm when they eliminate in the right area.

Once this behavior is learned, begin to train your dog not to eliminate inside the house. When your pet is inside with you, watch for signs that precede bathroom habits: sniffing, circling, and squatting. Distract your dog with a firm "no" command and immediately take them to the area outside where they are to eliminate. Again, give lots of praise when they eliminate there. Do not reprimand your dog for an accident. Simply clean up the dog's mess, making sure you use a product intended to remove all pet odors. Your veterinarian or pet supply store can recommend a good deodorizer. It is important to remove all traces of odor as fecal or urine odor can trigger an elimination reflex.

Confining a dog in a run or yard is not an effective way of housetraining. Your presence and praise immediately following elimination in the right area are essential to success. Paper training is not recommended unless you plan to use paper in the home as his permanent bathroom area.

Punishment by rubbing the dog's nose in their mess is cruel and only confuses your dog, who will not make the connection that they should have gone outdoors and not on the carpet but will begin to learn that you behave in an irrational and bullying fashion. It's better to stop them from making a mistake and reward them with praise when they have done the right thing. Remember that a dog suffering from diarrhea will probably have accidents in the house because they can't control loose bowel movements.

If you've adopted a previously housetrained dog from the shelter, they may still need reminder training. Expect a few mistakes while they adjust to your household and you

learn to communicate. Offer the same consistent training as you would with a puppy.

To avoid nighttime accidents, have your dog sleep in a crate until house training is completed. Be sure to take your dog outside to eliminate before retiring to bed.

If you must leave a pet alone that isn't adequately housetrained, confine them to a crate. If you do not use a crate, confine them to a part of the house where accidents can be easily cleaned up. Provide a comfortable place to rest if they do not have access to their sleeping area.

Chewing

We all know that puppies will teethe and chew, but adult dogs like to chew as well. All dogs should have their own chew toys. Sterilized natural bones and nylon bones are long-lasting and well-liked by dogs. Hard rubber toys are also fine. Avoid rawhide bones and chews as they can cause impactions requiring expensive surgery. Avoid toys with parts that can be removed and swallowed easily.

If your dog tries to chew on forbidden items, distract them right away. Offer the dog a chew toy instead and offer praise when they accept it. Avoid punishment or tugging to remove items from their mouth. Dogs who chew forbidden items should be reprimanded with a firm "no" when caught, then praised for the acceptance of a chew toy. Bitter apple spray can be used on forbidden items that your dog chews (available from your pet supply store or veterinarian). It has a bitter taste and will generally keep your puppy from trying to chew on electric cords, plugs, shoes, etc. more than once. To prevent mishaps, don't leave shoes or other enticing items around the house.

Destructive chewing that results from stress or isolation can be improved, but correction requires knowledge of the individual situation. In these cases, it is best to work with a qualified trainer.

Obedience Training

By teaching your dog basic obedience, you build a relationship of mutual respect and establish a mutually understood language with your dog. In addition, with the right instructor, your dog will thoroughly enjoy the time spent with you in class and in training.

Obedience classes are a good idea for dogs of any age. Even dogs that are already trained benefit from taking a class with their new family. It will help you bond with your new pet and help you learn to communicate and set behavioral expectations. Puppies benefit from socialization, including both puppy training and puppy play classes when available. Puppies can provide developmental lessons for each other that are difficult to replicate. Heartland Humane uses and recommends training by positive reinforcement. There are many options for positive reinforcement-based training in our area. You can find a list of local trainers on our website.

Crate Training

Crate training can help solve many problems faced by dogs and owners, including housetraining, chewing, and more. The crate gives your dog a safe, private place to rest when you are away and assures that the dog stays out of trouble. The crate is your dog's sanctuary. Confinement in a crate should never be used as punishment.

Why Crates? In the wild, most dogs rely on snug, enclosed areas (dens) to bear and raise pups. It seems the instinct for denning persists in domestic dogs, and den-like settings have a calming effect. For a puppy, a warm, snug crate works as a house-training aid (dogs typically won't soil their "personal space"), a temporary playpen when you can't directly supervise them, and a cozy bedroom that can comfort them during those first few stressful nights away from their littermates.

Crates are hands down the safest way for dogs to travel in cars. A crate offers quiet refuge when a dog is recuperating from an illness or injury and can be a sanctuary when things get hectic around the house. As long as you don't use them for punishment, crates can also help you correct some undesirable canine behaviors such as destructive chewing. More importantly, crates can help prevent behavior problems before they start by helping owners establish routines for their dogs.

What kind? Most crates are made of either thick-gauge metal wire or molded plastic. Whichever material you choose, your dog's crate should be ruggedly constructed and fitted with secure door latches. For portability, look for crates that disassemble or fold up easily. Above all, make sure your dog's crate is the appropriate size - at least large enough for your dog to stand up, turn around, and lie down in. A crate shouldn't be too big - especially for a puppy. Young dogs often find spacious quarters more disturbing than comforting and a crate that's too large can sabotage housetraining, as the dog can eliminate at one end and then move to the other. If you're raising a puppy, purchase a crate that will be big enough to accommodate them when they're full-grown, then insert partitions or cardboard boxes inside the crate to reduce the interior space for the time being.

Affirmative Actions Your job is to teach your dog that the crate is a great place to be. No matter your dog's age, make sure every interaction they have with the crate is pleasant. In fact, if you set up a crate several days before you get your dog, the crate will take on your home's scent, and your pet will see it as just another interesting piece of furniture.

Stay nearby while your dog is getting acclimated to their crate. Once your dog is comfortable enough in the crate to tolerate a closed door, leave the room - and eventually your home - for increasingly longer periods of time, but start with very short increments. Acclimate your dog to the crate while you are home so they do not associate the crate with being alone. When your dog is crate-comfy enough to be left alone for several hours, crate them 5 or 10 minutes

before leaving and wait 5 or 10 minutes after returning before you let them out. Avoid emotional departures, which incite nervousness in dogs. When you let your dog out, behave nonchalantly at first. Take the dog out to "do their business", and then celebrate your reunion by doing something fun together.

You can use "canine surveillance" systems (such as audio or video) to find out whether your dog shows signs of severe agitation when left alone in the crate. Even when your dog loves the crate, they may whine a bit when left alone in it for the first time. Always wait until your dog is calm and quiet before opening the door. If you uncrate a dog because he's whining, you teach him that whining is acceptable and a good way to get you to let them out.

Do...

- Leave the crate door open until your dog willingly enters and exits on its own. Remember: dens don't have doors.
- Hide food treats in a t-shirt with your smell on it in the crate. The dog will associate the crate with stimulating hide-and-seek activities and the security of your scent.
- Feed your dog in the crate so they identify the 'den' with the ultimate canine joy: eating.
- Equip the crate with a warm, soft blanket or crate mat.
- Praise, play with, and pet your dog when they are inside the crate.
- Encourage your dog to nap in its crate so they will associate the crate with rest and relaxation.

Don't...

- Never use a crate as punishment - either deliberately or unintentionally. For example: If you crate your dog only when you leave, the dog connects the crate with the negative consequence of your departure. They will begin to view the crate as punishment.
- Don't put the crate in a high-traffic or noisy area.
- Don't overdo crating. While it is advisable to crate a dog for short periods when you are home, don't use the crate as a substitute for interacting with your dog.
- To avoid accidental injury, never leave your dog's collar on when you crate them.
- Don't force the crate on your dog if they 'flip out' at the mere sight of one. Due to unfortunate past experiences, some dogs simply will not tolerate crating- but they should still have a place in the house to call their own.

Outside Shelter

Heartland Humane does not recommend leaving pets outside for long periods of time. Many domesticated animals are not suited for the weather in our area. Leaving pets outdoors can lead to behavioral issues and emotional hardship.

If your dog will regularly spend lengths of time outside, there are things you can do to ensure their safety. They must have protection from the elements. In extreme temperatures, hot or cold, please bring your dog inside. Ensure they have a soft place to rest, protected from the sun and rain. Water must be available at all times. Take care to ensure it does not freeze in the winter and is placed out of the sun in hot weather. Remember not to isolate or forget your dog. A dog that spends much of their day outside needs your companionship as much or more than an inside dog.

Grooming

Most dogs, even those with short hair, will shed and require grooming. Long hair mats easily and must be brushed regularly. Start grooming right away to accustom your dog to this routine. Praise while you groom. Avoid pulling on tangles or mats; take time to untangle them gently so that your dog does not have unpleasant associations with grooming. Misting the coat with water cuts down on static electricity and breakage. Keeping your dog's coat bathed and clean will make grooming easier and more pleasant.

After exercise can be a good time to groom your pet. Your dog will be calm and you can easily check for burrs, fleas, and ticks. Consider brushing your dog while you watch TV. (Commercial breaks are a good time to practice sit, down, and stay commands.)

Bathing: Dogs can be bathed as frequently as needed, as long as you use a non-irritating dog shampoo and thoroughly rinse their coat. There are a variety of good shampoos available and you may want to experiment to find what works best for your dog's coat. (Do not use people shampoo as it will dry out your dog's skin and coat.) Be careful not to get soap and water in their eyes. When bathing a puppy, be sure to dry them thoroughly and keep them warm. Older dogs should also wait until they are completely dry to go outside. Unless you have a small dog that can be bathed in a laundry tub, try bathing your dog in the bathtub. Bathing a dog outside and using cold water from a hose will likely cause your dog to hate baths. Grooming and bathing times are good times for treats.

Nails, Teeth, and Ears: Your dog's nails must be clipped regularly, and their ears and teeth also need to be cleaned. Your groomer or veterinarian can show you how this is done. Some dogs will allow for nail trims, tooth brushing, and ear cleaning at home. You can even train your dog to participate in these behaviors willingly. However, many dogs are sensitive to this type of handling. In these cases, or to maintain their health while you use training to acclimate them to at-home grooming, you should seek the assistance of a professional

groomer or veterinarian.

External Parasites

Fleas: In addition to discomfort, fleas can cause anemia, dermatitis, skin infections, hair loss, and lead to tapeworm infestation. To rid your house of fleas, you must treat both your pet and the environment. Adult fleas feed on the dog and lay eggs, which fall to the floor, grass, and bedding. Eggs hatch into larvae, which feed on debris, spin cocoons, and hatch into adults.

The trend today is to use a topical flea treatment like Advantage or Frontline. A variety of flea sprays and shampoos are available to control fleas. Read labels and follow instructions carefully. **Many products are intended to work specifically for dogs OR cats and cannot be used for both kinds of pets without causing serious illness.** We recommend using a product prescribed or recommended by your veterinarian.

Please remember to treat the house as needed. A dog will soon become re-infested with fleas if the environment is not treated. Clean all areas frequented by your dog, including bedding. Follow with a treatment of topical flea spray or fogger, designed to kill both larvae and adult fleas. Pupae can survive to hatch in 10 -14 days and you will need to repeat the treatment. Severe flea infestations can take months to control. If your dog develops skin problems from fleas, take them to a veterinarian.

Ticks: Ticks live in shrubs and undergrowth and drop onto dogs as they pass. Ticks attach themselves and feed on blood until they look round like a seed. Ticks can cause serious infections and are carriers of disease. Check your pet for ticks regularly. Carefully examine the head and neck area, under the collar, under the ears, and between the toes. Remove ticks carefully and destroy them. Dips and shampoos effectively treat tick problems. Many flea medications also treat ticks as well.

Ear Mites: Ear mites cause irritation and discomfort and are frequently followed by bacterial infection. Ear scratching and head shaking are symptoms of mites. Have your dog examined by your veterinarian for treatment.

Internal Parasites

Worms: Roundworms, hookworms, and tapeworms infest the dog's intestinal tract. Worm infestation may cause anemia, weight loss, lethargy, diarrhea, and vomiting. You may see worms in your dog's stool. Tapeworms break apart and look like grains of rice. Certain types of worms are common in our area and many veterinarians will preventatively prescribe a dose of medication at your annual appointment. Call your veterinarian if you suspect a worm infestation. You will need to bring a fecal sample to the appointment. Your veterinarian can prescribe proper medication. Over-the-counter drugs may be harmful and ineffective.

Heartworms: Heartworms live in or near the heart and can cause serious damage before any symptoms appear. Heartworm disease is spread by mosquitoes and is detected through a blood test. If detected early, the disease is treatable. A yearly veterinarian check is recommended. Though previously uncommon in our area, the past decade has seen an influx of dogs from other areas of the country, bringing new populations of parasites with them.

Disease Prevention and Health

A regular immunization program can protect your dog's health. Your veterinarian will work out the immunizations and preventative treatments that your dog needs, based on age, lifestyle, and which vaccinations they already received. Dogs adopted from Heartland receive age-appropriate vaccinations while in our care. It is important to establish care with a veterinarian as soon as possible. Oregon law requires pets to be seen by a veterinarian at least once per year.

Rabies

Rabies is a virus transmitted in the saliva by a bite from an infected animal. It can be fatal. While not all mammals can transmit or carry rabies, it can be passed on to humans. Oregon State law requires that all dogs, six months of age or older, have a current rabies vaccine. All animal bite incidents in our county must be reported to Benton County Environmental Health: 541-766-6841. Most biting animals must be quarantined and observed for 10 days.

When to Seek Medical Attention

The following symptoms may indicate a medical condition that requires veterinary examination for diagnosis. **Please note that this is *not* an exhaustive list.**

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Fever*
- Loss of appetite
- Coughing
- Eye or nose discharge
- Blood in stool
- Difficulty breathing
- Convulsions or seizures
- Unusual Lethargy
- Restlessness or pacing
- Signs of pain
- Excess salivation


*A dog's normal temperature is 101-102 degrees Fahrenheit.

Many of the above symptoms can also be stress-related behaviors and not signs of disease. The most important things to pay attention to are any **changes** in your dog's demeanor, behavior, or body. If you see changes, contact your veterinarian.

Heatstroke

Avoid subjecting your dog to possible heatstroke by providing water and access to shade at all times. Don't over-exert your dog in the heat and **NEVER LEAVE YOUR DOG IN A CAR ON SUNNY OR WARM DAYS**. It only takes a few minutes for the temperature in a car to reach 110 degrees and your dog can suffer severe brain damage or death shortly thereafter. Cracked windows are not sufficient., even in the shade.


Heatstroke is a life-threatening condition that requires IMMEDIATE emergency care.



Car Temperature Safety Chart

Open windows have little effect on the temp inside a car, even in the shade.

Outside Temp	After 10 min	After 30 min
70°	89°	104°
75°	94°	109°
80°	99°	114°
85°	104°	119°
90°	109°	124°
95°	114°	129°



Heartland Humane

Temps over 90 are dangerous, while over 100 can be deadly.

Finding an Animal in a Hot Car

If you see an animal alone in a dangerously hot vehicle, first attempt to find the owner. If unsuccessful, call the non-emergency number to reach Animal Control or a Community Service Officer: Corvallis: 541-766-6924; Benton County: 541-766-6858. As a last resort, call 911. **Please note:** While Heartland Humane is contracted to provide shelter and care for pets on behalf of law enforcement, we are not Animal Control officers and have no legal authority to seize animals or issue citations to the public.

Keeping Your Pet Safe

Protect your dog from being hit by a car, and from potentially dangerous interactions with other animals. Do not allow your dog to roam. Unless you have a fenced yard, do not turn your dog loose outside. Even the best-behaved dogs can forget their training if they spot other animals wandering the neighborhood. You can train your dog to wait at the door before going outside. Begin the practice of giving a wait command to your dog each time anyone in your household goes out. This will teach your dog to wait for permission to go outside. A dog that does not bolt outside is less likely to get into trouble.

Be sure your dog wears identification at all times. An ID tag will help ensure a lost pet is returned. Collars can fall off, so all dogs adopted from Heartland Humane are microchipped, and the microchip is registered to you at the time of adoption. Our shelter is the housing facility for all stray and at-large pets in Corvallis and Benton County.

What to Do if Your Pet is Lost

- Start searching immediately in all areas of the house, yard, and neighborhood for several blocks in all directions.
- Enlist the help of neighbors, children, and the mailman. Show them a picture of your dog and give out your telephone number.
- Place your dog's bedding on your porch - the scent can help lead them home. You can also put your dirty socks or similar items outside.
- Benton County pet owners: visit heartlandhumane.org and file a Lost Pet Report. Don't
- forget to upload a photo. Our shelter is the housing facility for stray pets in Benton County.
- Post signs in your neighborhood, at grocery stores, and at local schools. Include a description of your pet with a photo and phone number.
- Post notices on Craigslist and in the Facebook groups for your town, neighborhood, and the lost and found pets groups for your area.

Many people keep lost dogs for weeks before bringing them to a shelter. Sometimes dogs may be picked up by someone and be transported several miles before escaping and being at large again. A lost dog can wander the streets for weeks, so keep looking.

Dog Licenses

All dogs must be licensed at six months of age or when their permanent canine teeth emerge, whichever comes first. To obtain a license, you must have your dog vaccinated for rabies. Your veterinarian will issue a rabies certificate for you to submit when licensing your dog. You can license your dog at the Benton County Courthouse.

Benton & Linn County Veterinary List

Many veterinarians in our area offer a free vet exam for newly adopted pets. While the examination is free, you will be charged for any products, vaccinations, or medications your veterinarian recommends during the appointment. **This exam must be scheduled within ten days.** When you call to schedule your free exam, make sure to mention that you've adopted your pet from Heartland to confirm that your veterinarian will honor the free appointment. Bring your paperwork with you to the appointment as proof of adoption.

**While these veterinarians have agreed to honor the free vet appointment for dogs adopted from Heartland Humane, we cannot guarantee that each veterinarian on this list will be accepting new clients when you adopt.*

Benton County	Benton Co. Continued..
All Creatures Great & Small 4710 NE Elliott Cir, Corvallis 541-758-7280	Willamette Vet Clinic 650 SW 3rd St., Corvallis 541-753-2223
Alpine Animal Hospital 5120 NE Highland Dr, Corvallis 541-752-7747	
Ark Animal Hospital 1100 Applegate St., Philomath 541-929-5061	
Corvallis Cat Care 620 NW 4th St., Corvallis 541-753-2287	Linn County
Corvallis Vet Hospital 1543 NW 9th St., Corvallis 541-752-5595	Albany Animal Hospital 629 Madison St. SE, Albany 541-926-8817
Eastgate Vet Clinic 33888 SE Peoria Rd., Corvallis 541-752-3786	Lebanon Animal Clinic 185 N. Santiam Hwy, Lebanon 541-451-1319
Pioneer Vet Clinic 5610 SW Philomath Blvd., Philomath 541-753-4681	Linn Vet Hospital 6011 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany 541-926-0291
Town & Country Animal Hospital 430 SW 53rd St., Corvallis 541-752-9914	Reid Vet Hospital 933 Queen Ave. SW, Albany 541-928-8341
West Hills Animal Hospital 430 SW 53rd St., Corvallis 541-758-4509	River's Edge Pet Medical Center 202 NW Hickory St., Albany 541-924-1700
	Sweet Home Vet Clinic 1214 Long St., Sweet Home 541-367-3131