

PJ's Rescue Adoption Resources



Congratulations on adopting your new family member!

This is an exciting time for you and your new companion. How your pet develops and grows from here on out depends largely on you. All learning from here on out is built on top of previous experiences. For most, we may not know what our animals have been through. It is important to take the time now to help your pet transition smoothly into their new home.

PJ's Rescue is a volunteer based non-profit organization. We do our very best to work with you, our adopters, to help make the adoption a success and strengthen the bond between you and your pet. During your pet's stay with PJ's Rescue, our volunteer fosters take time out of their own lives to provide the best start to their foster animal's new life. We want to continue to assist you, the new guardian, once your animal moves from our home to yours. Just as you will always be there for your pet, PJ's Rescue is always here for you to provide any assistance and information to help your adoption become a lasting success.

This Adoption Folder is a guide created to help ensure a happy and successful relationship with your pet. Please contact PJ's Rescue at any time if you have questions or concerns about your pet's well being. Our commitment to you will continue long after this special day. As you welcome your companion into your family, we welcome you into ours.

Welcoming A Dog into Your Family

Bringing home a new dog is a fun and exciting experience. Your dog will need some time to become comfortable in his new home and adjust to his role as your family's new companion. Provided below is information that will assist in welcoming your new family member into your home.

What you will need:

We're excited that you've decided to adopt. Here are some things you'll want to have on hand.

- Quality dog food that is best fit for your dog's breed and age.
 - Food and water bowls
- Chew toys
 - Age safe bones
 - Training treats
- Crate or Kennel
 - Dog bed, blankets.
- Leash and collar.



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Safely Traveling Home:

The first trip home can be intimidating for your new pet.

- Respect your dog's fears until they are comfortable.
- The safest place for your dog to travel within a vehicle is seat belted in the back seat or in a crate.
- Go directly home, and if you must stop, do not leave your dog unattended in the car.
- When you get home, leave the leash attached to your dog's collar to facilitate catching them if the need arises.

House Training:

Set them up for success by taking them outside to potty frequently, especially in the beginning.

- Assume that your new dog is not house-trained and expect to have some accidents in your home.
 - If your dog happens to be house-trained then you will be pleasantly surprised.
 - The most effective way to manage your dog's elimination habits is to have a consistent eating and eliminating schedule.
 - In addition, take your dog to the same place to use the bathroom. This will help your dog understand what you want.
 - *Don't forget to reward your dog for going to the bathroom outside. You can use praise and treats!*

When you leave your dog at home:

Make sure your animal has just been outside to the bathroom and has an appropriate chew toy. Chew toys provide distraction and help with boredom.

- A small area or crate simulates a den so teaching your dog how to behave in the house alone can be aided through crate training.
 - Dogs typically won't soil this space, because it is their sleeping area.
 - Puppies younger than five months are like babies and cannot be expected to control their bladders and bowels like an adult animal.
- As a general rule, puppies can control their bladders for 1 hour for every month of age up to 10 months. To expect otherwise is to set yourself up for disappointment.

Basic Training:

- The most effective way to train your dog is to begin immediately.
 - Teach your dog the rules of your family when you first arrive home because dogs may need extra time to understand the changes.
- Bringing home your new dog is exciting, and you may feel compelled to give them all of your attention.
 - Although sometimes difficult for you and your dog, you should establish a sense of independence within the first few days.
- Devoting time to your new dog is wonderful, but it is important to make sure to practice leaving them home alone.
- A quick trip to the store is a great way to test your dog. Just make sure that

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you leave your dog either in a crate or a secure place so you aren't surprised when you return home.

- This short controlled time will give you an idea of how your dog handles being left alone.

Potty Training:

Each dog is different. The amount of time it takes to train will vary. Consistency and patience is key to success.

- Using praise and routine are the most efficient ways to house-train your new dog.
 - Punishing a dog by rubbing his nose in the mess or swatting him with a newspaper will only make him afraid of you and avoid ever going to the bathroom in front of you (even outside).
 - If you catch him in the act, simply say "no" and take him outside.
 - When your dog or puppy has an "accident" in the house simply clean it up (but not in front of them). The way you clean the soiled area is critical to ensure the spot does not become a magnet for all of the pets in the household.
 - Use a good enzymatic cleaner, such as Pet Odor Eliminator or Nature's Miracle

Crate Training:

Dogs love having a place of their own and a crate helps satisfy their den instinct. Providing a crate for your dog can be a great way to train them and introduce them to their new environment. This provides a safe space as well.

- Training your dog to feel comfortable in his crate must be done slowly and gradually. Start by leaving the door open and occasionally placing a tasty treat inside for him to retrieve. Once your dog is comfortable going in and out for the treat, begin feeding meals in the crate. As your dog becomes accustomed to eating in his crate you can begin closing the door while he is inside, gradually increasing the time the door stays closed.
 - During the training process if your dog whines or cries, do not let him out until he stops. However, if you have adopted a puppy make sure you grant the request for elimination issues and ignore the request if it is purely for attention. Otherwise, your dog will learn that whining is the way to get out of his crate, and he will keep doing it.
- Some dogs suffer from issues around being left alone; these dogs generally can't handle crating. It is important to distinguish between a dog that is seeking attention and one that is suffering from separation anxiety.
 - A crate isn't a magical solution to all problems, however when used and introduced properly it can be a wonderful management tool.
- Provide your dog with a secure place where they can retreat when tired, stressed or ill.

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Introduction to Children:

Until you are certain that your new dog and children are safe together, make sure that you keep them separate unless supervised.

- Learning to read a dog's subtle body language when they are around children will be helpful.
 - If there is EVER a moment when you think that your dog is trying to harm your child, separate them immediately.
 - If you have concerns about your dog's behavior but are not seeing signs of aggression, place a leash on your dog and teach him to "sit" when around children.
 - Use treats to reward your dog when he is interacting positively with children.
 - Pick up all your toys. Some dogs may not be able to tell the difference between what is theirs and what belongs to the kids.

- Always leave your dog alone when they are eating, chewing or sleeping. Some dogs may nip or bite if bothered while eating or startled while sleeping.
 - Do not take away a toy or prized possession from the foster dog.
 - Do not tease the foster dog.
 - Don't chase the foster dog around the house or run quickly around the foster dog- it may scare them.

Animal Introductions

Introducing your new animal to your existing dog or cat can be a stressful part of adoption. To facilitate building the relationship between animals, make all interactions fun and positive.

Expect the transition to take some time and be prepared to go about it gradually.

- Give your first pet lots of attention to reassure him that he isn't being replaced.
- Be sure that each animal has his own food and water bowls, toys, and bed to minimize temptations to fight.
- Play it cool. If you are nervous, your pets are more likely to become nervous.
- Insist on good manners from the beginning.
 - Don't reward any whining, growling or pushy behavior in attempts to gain attention.
- Never grab or pick up any frightened animal and never separate fighting animals with your hands.
- Plan short periods of play times.
- Give attention to each pet separately and together.
- Serve meals at the same time, but start out feeding them in separate locations.
- Be patient, the adjustment time takes days and often weeks. As the animals become more comfortable around each other, they will sort out their relationship.
- Your current pup can pick up on your stress or anxiety and this could cause them to act out in your defense. But not to worry, if you keep cool and allow the animals to adjust at their own pace, before you know it your animals will be totally comfortable and happy.

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Introducing Dogs to Dogs

- Dogs have to figure out where they fall in the hierarchy, so it is important to introduce new members of the pack slowly.
- First, choose an unfamiliar location to start your puppy introduction. This will keep your current dog from viewing any newcomers as an intruder.
- During introductions, each dog should be on a leash and handled by a different person.
 - Allow them to sniff each other & completely check one another out.
 - Be wary of body language; signs of aggression include raised hackles and teeth baring.
 - If all is going well, be sure to provide lots of praise for the new friends.
 - Have them each sit and give them treats so they associate the new dog they're meeting with a positive experience.
- When you feel like the investigation has tapered off and the two dogs are tolerating one another, it's time to head home.
 - It is ok for one dog to take the dominant position, such as claiming toys or beds so don't be too worried that this is a sign of a life-long conflict.
 - This is all part of that doggy hierarchy and throughout all the ups and downs that come with new interactions. Remember to remain calm and happy.

Introducing Dogs to Cats

- Cat personalities and willingness to tolerate dogs can vary enormously.
 - Some cats may act fearfully and some will be ready to play from the get go.
- It is important to consider the personality traits of your cat before adopting a new pack member.
 - If you have an indoor cat that hasn't interacted with other animals for the majority of their life, bringing in another pet could be very stressful for them.
- When you first bring your new pup home, it is important to separate them from the resident cat.
 - You can section off the house and switch off which rooms each animal has access to. This will allow each animal to grow accustomed to the other's scent.
 - Once the new dog is calm, or at least not obsessed with the idea of finding and playing with the cat, you can start the real introductions.
- Put a leash on your dog and allow them to be in the same room. It is recommended that you continue the introduction step until the dog is calm and is ignoring the cat.
 - Be mindful of your cat's behavior after the introduction. If they appear to be comfortable and are eating and using the litter box like normal, then these are good indicators that the cat is not feeling overly stressed.
 - Remember, you should only allow the dog and cat to be unsupervised together after you are completely confident that they won't harm or cause stress to one another. It will often take longer for a relationship to develop between these two species than between two dogs, but give it time.

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Transitioning your pet to a new type of food

Switching your pet to a new food takes some planning. Because animals are creatures of habit, they tend to prefer their current food to a new food. They, like us, become accustomed to a food and may not be thrilled about a new routine.

- Here are some useful feeding tips to help keep your pet's tummy happy.
 - Introduce the new food gradually. This is the most successful way to ease your pet into the change in diet.
 - Start by mixing 25% new food with 75% old food.
 - Slowly change the proportions over the next 5 to seven days by gradually increasing the new food and lessening the amount of the old food.
 - At the end of this weaning process, you should be feeding 100% of the new food.
- Your animal may want to eat only the old food, or not eat at all. Not to worry, a healthy pet can miss meals for a day or two with no ill effects.
 - Initial refusal to eat the new food may be a sign that the transition just needs to happen a little bit more slowly.
- Watch your body language. Bringing a new food into your home, pouring it in your pet's bowl and declaring that he/she had better eat it might cause your pet to go on a hunger strike.
 - This is not the time to show who's boss. It's better to introduce the new food by using a pleasant tone and gently encourage them to try the new food.
- Don't give in to demands. Don't give up too soon!
 - For the first two days, don't give your pet treats, or table scraps.
 - Animals train us as much as we train them. Giving in to their demands only reinforces refusal behavior and makes it more difficult to make a nutritious dietary change.
- Switching diets may be more challenging when changing from a moist food to a dry food.
 - If your pet continues to resist eating dry food, mix in a little warm water.
 - After the pet has become accustomed to the moistened food, you can wean him onto the dry food.

Vomiting and Diarrhea

Has your dog had an upset stomach, vomiting or diarrhea? Have you started a new food?

Oftentimes our dogs get upset stomachs from change of food, treats, stress/anxiety.

- Mix 2 parts carbs (cooked rice or mashed potatoes) to 1 part protein (low-fat cottage cheese, cooked chicken breast or boiled hamburger).
- Split your animals normal amount of food consumed per day into 5-6 smaller meals.
 - For example, if your dog eats 2 cups of food per day you would feed the same amount of the bland diet, but each feeding would be smaller as you are feeding more often.
- While feeding a bland diet, DO NOT give any dog food, human foods or treats. It is important to be restrictive during this time.

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- When to transition back to dog food: Once your pet has had a normal bowel movement you want to slowly start transitioning back to normal dog food kibble.
 - Day 1: mix 3 parts bland diet to 1 part dog kibble.
 - Day 2 and 3: mix ½ part bland diet and ½ part kibble
 - Day 4: Mix 1 part bland diet to 3 parts kibble
 - Day 5: should be back to dog kibble

When to call your veterinarian?

- If your dog begins to refuse eating, start vomiting, or the diarrhea isn't resolving please call the clinic.

Foods that may be dangerous to your pet

Alcoholic beverages, almonds, apples, apricot pits, avocados, cake batter, cherry pits, caffeinated drinks, candy (especially chocolate), cheese, chives, citrus, coconut, coffee (grounds and beans), fat trimmings and bones, garlic, grapes, grapefruit, gum, liver, macadamia nuts, moldy foods, mushrooms, mustard seeds, onion and onion powder, peach pits, prescription meds for humans, potato leaves and stems (green parts), raisins, raw or uncooked eggs/fish/meat, rhubarb, salt, tea, tomato leaves and stems, canned tuna, turkey, walnuts, xylitol, and yeast dough.

- If you suspect your pet ate any of these foods, try to determine how much. Call your veterinarian for specific advice.
- If your vet is unavailable or equipped to handle the situation, call the nearest animal hospital or the **pet poison helpline at 1-855-213-6680**. This is especially important if your animal is displaying symptoms such as muscle tremors or repeated vomiting.

If you suspect your pet ingested a poisonous plant, please contact ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 1-888-4-ANI-HELP

<http://www.napcc.aspcce.org>

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ANIMAL SAFETY

DO NOT let your dog travel unsecured in an open pickup truck bed.

- Dog's can't "hold on" the way humans can, and any sudden start, stop, or turn can toss your pet onto the highway. If the impact of hitting the road at a high speed doesn't kill it, oncoming traffic probably will. It is estimated that at least 100,000 dogs die this way each year.
- There are other hazards to consider:
 - Most dogs love the feeling of wind blowing past their ears at 60 mph, but that wind can seriously irritate mucous membranes and blow pieces of grit into the animal's eye. It may require veterinary attention to remove the foreign material, which could cause permanent damage to the eye.
 - Insects or flying debris can also lodge in the nasal passages or get sucked up into the windpipe.
 - Open truck beds provide no protection from the weather. Rain, snow, and freezing temperatures are obvious problems, but even warm days have their dangers.
 - Hot sun can heat the metal floor of a truck bed enough to burn a pet's paw pads. And once the truck has stopped, a dog left sitting in the broiling sun without water or shade may suffer from heat stroke before long. It is safest to allow your dog to ride inside the truck cab, or leave it at home
- If it must ride in the back of the truck, put the pet inside a crate that will give it some protection from the wind and weather, and tie the crate securely to the walls of the truck bed so it cannot slide about or be tossed out of the truck.

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Follow the Rule of 3's when adopting a Rescue Dog.

The 3 DAYS, 3 WEEKS, 3 MONTHS rule is a general guideline for the adjustment period of an animal in a new environment. Every animal is unique and will adjust differently, so give them space and allow them to go at their own pace. This tool will help you with understanding your animal's adjustment to a new environment.

THE FIRST 3 DAYS:

- Your animal will not be comfortable enough to be himself. Don't be alarmed if they do not eat for the first couple days. Many dogs don't eat when stressed. They may shut down, want to hide. They may be scared and unsure of what is going on.
 - Give them space
 - Set boundaries early
 - Stay calm and give clear direction
 - Start your daily routine right away
 - Do not force interaction
 - Be patient and stay positive.



AFTER 3 WEEKS:

- Your animal will start to feel more settled
 - They will start to test boundaries
 - Work on basic commands: sit, wait, down and come
- Give clear direction at all times.
- Give calm, clear feedback to them on when they are misbehaving.
- Praise every success.

AFTER 3 MONTHS:

- Your animal will start to trust its new home
 - They will begin to understand routine
 - Do not ease off training, more is better.
 - They will begin to build great habits if you stay consistent
- They will start to build a bond- use affection as a resource

**REMEMBER: It takes patience, consistency and time
Give them a chance**

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Keep Your Pet Healthy With Vaccinations

Owning a pet can be a huge responsibility and one important responsibility of all pet owners, is keeping them up to date on vaccinations. Vaccinations are essential for protecting pets against contagious diseases. There are several vaccinations that both puppies and kittens need to be given to ensure their health and safety. Proof of vaccinations is also normally required in order to register your pets and is another reason to stay up to date.

Vaccinations for Dogs:

As soon as you bring a dog home, the first thing you should do is schedule an appointment with a veterinarian to get your pet checked out.

- While many puppies will come to you with their first set of shots, it is still important to visit a vet and stay on schedule, as they may need boosters.
- Two important vaccines that all dogs should have are the rabies vaccine and the DHPP vaccine.
 - Rabies is a fatal virus that can be carried by many animals so dogs should always be vaccinated against rabies. Rabies vaccinations are normally good for anywhere from one to three years.
 - The DHPP vaccine is the Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus vaccine, which is also commonly known as simply the distemper shot. The distemper shot is incredibly important as it will protect your dog against all four dangerous diseases.

Your vet may also recommend other vaccinations for your dog depending on several factors including their lifestyle, and even where you live. Some vaccines that might be recommended by a veterinarian include:

- **Bordetella vaccine** - Bordetella is an upper respiratory infection that is highly contagious. The virus is also commonly known as kennel cough. Veterinarians will often recommend the Bordetella vaccine for pets that spend time in kennels, doggy daycare, and other such places.
- **Leptospirosis vaccine** - Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection that is often found in moist climates and areas with slow moving, or standing water. Often, the Leptospirosis vaccine is included as part of the DHPP vaccine, making it known as the DHLPP vaccine. Leptospirosis can be passed from animals to humans.
- **CoronaVirus vaccine** - The Corona virus is prevalent mainly in the southern part of the United States. Veterinarians may recommend that pet owners who live in the south get this vaccination.

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Local Vet Clinics in the Twin Ports Area

Grand Avenue Veterinary Clinic 5503 Grand Avenue Duluth, MN 55807 (218) 628-0301	Superior Animal Hospital 36 E 2nd St Superior, WI 54880 (715) 392-6211
Happy Tails Animal Hospital 1327 Banks Ave Superior, WI 54880 (715) 718-2130	North Shore Veterinary Hospital 6001 E Superior St Duluth, MN 55804 (218) 525-1937
Duluth Veterinary Hospital 2015 London Rd Duluth, MN 55812 (218) 728-3616	Dougherty Veterinary Clinics 215 E 14th St Duluth, MN 55811 (218) 722-3963
Airport Animal Hospital 4259 Haines Rd Hermantown, MN 55811 (218) 727-0128	Miller Trunk Veterinary Clinic 5285 Miller Trunk Hwy Hermantown, MN 55811 (218) 729-7959
Waters Edge Animal Hospital and Urgent Care 332 E Central Entrance Duluth, MN 55811 (218) 464-4774	BluePearl Pet Hospital 2314 W Michigan St. Duluth, MN 55806 (218) 302-8000
Cloquet Animal Hospital 122 2nd St Cloquet, MN 55720 (218) 879-9280	Crow Goebel Veterinary Clinic 1108 Scanlon Way Cloquet, MN 55720 (218) 879-5356



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Training Your Pet to Tolerate Nail Trimming

Some dogs resent having their paws held or their nails trimmed. This intolerance is partly instinctive in young animals, and may also be learned from an unpleasant experience during nail trimming.

- The living portion of the nail bed contains sensitive nerves and blood vessels. If toenails are cut too short, a dog or cat learns that nail trimming is painful. This negative experience is not easily forgotten.
- Once a pet has learned to anticipate discomfort when its feet are touched, its evasive reaction can intensify each time.
 - Rewarding your dog with a treat after each nail trimming session can help the pet understand that it is a positive and rewarding experience!

Training Tips

If your pet is instinctively cautious about having its feet touched, and even if it shows no sign of withdrawing its paw, teach your pet that this interaction is not unpleasant.

- Before you ever attempt to trim your pet's nails, begin by touching its legs, feet and toes, and associate this with an activity it enjoys.
 - When it is resting, begin petting it, gently passing your hands over its back and legs. If this is well tolerated, you may wish to give it a small food treat.
 - Do not try to do too much the first time.
- Gradually manipulate your pet's foot more each time. Eventually, you should be able to slip your fingers in between each toe, gently squeezing each one to flex the nail, putting gentle pressure as you hold each foot and manipulate the leg.
 - Do not attempt this exercise when your pet is in an agitated or playful state, as it is most likely to resent any restrictions to its movement.
- Once your pet tolerates having its feet touched during quiet times, you may begin to incorporate this into elements of play time.
 - Train your dog to assume a "down/stay" position when it retrieves a ball, for example, and "shake" its paw before continuing the game.

Trimming Tips

If you are unsure of how to trim your pet's toenails, ask your veterinarian or a technician to show you how. They can show you where the sensitive nerves and blood vessels are likely to be found.

- The nail bed is seen as a pinkish triangle at the base of the nail; however, it may not be evident in dark-colored nails.
- Some pet's nails grow in a more curved shape, as compared with those growing more parallel to the ground.
 - This may determine how short they may be trimmed.
 - Even a skilled professional can misjudge the depth to which a nail may be trimmed.

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- It is also common for a pet to withdraw a foot while the nail is being clipped, because of pressure on sensitive nail areas. It is better to cut less than to cut more than necessary!
 - Trim off small sections at a time and stop well short of the sensitive part of the nail. Cutting the nail too short results in a painful experience for your pet. Cut your pet's nails frequently, a little at a time, rather than occasionally when toenails are uncomfortable to both your pet and to you.
 - Continue to manipulate your pet's feet and toes between nail trims so that it remains a familiar sensation.

Problem Pedicures

If your dog or cat has already had an unpleasant experience with nail trimming, you can train it to tolerate it by starting from the beginning.

- Even if you have followed the preliminary training steps above, start over as if its feet had never been conditioned to manipulation and gradually desensitize your pet to this interaction once again.
 - Your veterinarian may recommend a small dose of a mild anxiety medication to facilitate retraining in extreme cases.
- If your pet overreacts to nail trimming at the vet's office during its annual examination and vaccination, you may wish to schedule a separate appointment for nail trimming.
 - In some cases, a dog or cat's reaction to nail trimming is so extreme that retraining is difficult and may not be worthwhile.
 - For these unhappy pets, nail trimming is best avoided, however, your veterinarian can safely do a pedicure on a sedated or anesthetized pet.

Local Dog Trainers

- New Day Dog Training - Trudy Fredricks
 - Phone Number: (218) 349-5808
- Liberty K9
 - Phone Number: (218) 380-1925
- R&R Professional Dog Training & Boarding
 - Phone Number: (218) 384-1888
- PetSmart Dog Training
 - Phone Number: (218) 213-9465
- Bold North Dog Training - Tori Troyer
 - Phone Number: (612) 360-1078

