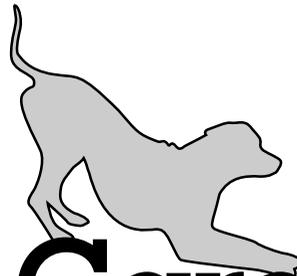
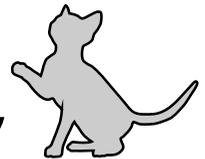


About Your New Dog



**Animal Care
& Control^{OF} NYC**





Animal Care & Control of NYC (AC&C) is the largest pet organization in the Northeast, caring for nearly 40,000 rescued animals each year. A non-profit organization since 1995, AC&C has contracted with NYC to manage the City's municipal shelter system. We rescue, care for and find homes for homeless and abandoned animals in NYC at our full-service Animal Care Centers.

Our Mission

To promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of pets and people in NYC.

Ways to Give and Volunteering for AC&C

There are many ways to continue to help the homeless animals in NYC. If interested in learning more about how you can get involved, please visit www.nycacc.org for more information on our Donation and Volunteer Programs.

Bringing Your New Pet Home

Dear New Adopting Family,

Thank you so much for opening your heart and your home to a wonderful pet from an Animal Care & Control of NYC (AC&C) Care Center! We hope that this will be the beginning of a long and happy life together, and we have the following suggestions to help ensure things start off smoothly with your new pet. If you have any further questions, please visit us at www.nycacc.org.

It is strongly recommended that you keep your new cat or dog away from other pets in the household for the first two weeks, although you will be very excited to bring your new pet home and introduce them to the family right away. This is important to allow them to slowly get to know each other and develop a friendly relationship. Please refer to our flyer, "Introducing a New Dog", for more information about introducing your new pet to your household. It is also very important to minimize the chances of your current pets catching a cold or an infection from your new pet, even if everyone appears healthy.

Every cat and dog that comes to an AC&C Care Center is given one or more vaccines to help protect them from several different common illnesses. Vaccines work by stimulating a protective response by the animal's immune system, but it may take 5 to 7 days until an animal is adequately protected. Vaccines are critical in minimizing the risk of disease, but they are not a guarantee and do not provide 100% protection. Some animals arrive at our Care Centers already sick, or have been exposed to disease but are not yet showing signs that they are ill. In these cases, the vaccine will not be able to cure or prevent the illness.

Please make an appointment with a veterinarian to have your new pet examined within the first 10 days following adoption. You may use the complimentary exam certificate at one of the participating veterinary facilities or, at your own expense, make an appointment with a different veterinarian of your choosing. It is very important to schedule this initial examination even if your pet appears to be healthy so that you can discuss a wellness plan that is

specifically designed for your pet, including which vaccinations he or she may need and any preventive medicines (such as heartworm pills) that are recommended.

Remember to enroll your microchip. The microchip, which is about the size of a grain of rice, was implanted at the shelter when you adopted your pet. It provides permanent identification, in conjunction with a collar and identification tags, to help reunite your pet with you in the event that he or she becomes lost. However, the microchip will only help you find your lost pet if you enroll it in the database with your contact information. This is a one-time process that only needs to be repeated if your contact details change but can truly be life-saving for your pet. Information on the microchip, including how to enroll it, has been provided at the time of adoption.

Remember to activate your pet insurance. You have been provided with a complimentary pet insurance policy to help cover your pet's medical needs, should they arise, in the 30 days following adoption. You must activate this policy in order to ensure coverage, and this must be done before your pet becomes sick or gets injured. The information on this policy was provided to you at the time of adoption. Please call to activate this insurance as soon as you get home to be sure it is current in the event you need to use it.

Ask for assistance if you have questions or concerns about your new pet. In addition to consulting with your veterinarian, please contact Pets for Life if you have questions about your new pet's behavior, introducing them to your family, or other concerns. In many cases they will be able to provide you with helpful information or even other resources, such as training classes, to help address your concerns and keep your new pet happy and healthy at home with you. A Pets for Life volunteer may be reached by calling (917) 468-2938.

Sincerely,

AC&C

Common Infectious Diseases in Dogs

AC&C animals arrive at our Care Centers as strays and owner surrenders. We do not always know their medical or behavioral history and, as indicated in the contract you signed, we cannot guarantee their health or temperament. Below is a list of common or serious diseases that may be found in shelter dogs with unknown medical histories. If you see any symptoms of the below, please contact a veterinarian.

Distemper

Symptoms: Coughing, sneezing, nasal or ocular discharge, fever, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, abortion, skin rash, hard paw pads.

Transmission: Primarily through contact with infected animals or with respiratory secretions (including airborne). Can also be spread by ocular secretions, vomit or diarrhea, or urine.

Treatment: Many cases require aggressive supportive care, including IV fluids and antibiotics. Cases in younger animals, particularly those with neurologic signs, have a guarded to poor prognosis.

Kennel Cough

Symptoms: Hacking cough, nasal and/or ocular discharge, fever

Transmission: Airborne, contact with infected dogs or respiratory secretions.

Treatment: Antibiotics, supportive care and/or cough suppressants. Most cases are relatively mild and will resolve with time, nursing care and medications. Although uncommon, severe cases may occur with dogs developing pneumonia.

Parvovirus

Symptoms: Lethargy, loss of appetite, vomiting, bloody diarrhea, fever. Testing is important to distinguish from parasites.

Transmission: Contact with feces.

Treatment: Supportive care, antibiotics, fluid and nutritional therapy. Cases require aggressive hospitalization and supportive care, including anti-nausea medications, IV fluids and antibiotics, and can be fatal despite treatment.

Please remember to utilize your free 10-day wellness exam and to activate your 30-day free health insurance so you can address any of your new pet's medical concerns.

Vaccination(s) Your New Pet Received While at AC&C's Animal Care Center

Dogs are given a 4-in-1 DA₂PP vaccination, commonly known as the "distemper shot". This includes distemper, adenovirus, parainfluenza and parvovirus. Dogs also receive an intranasal vaccination against Bordetella, a common bacterial cause of kennel cough.

New York City and State laws require that all animals three months of age and older receive a rabies vaccination.

Since AC&C does not have vaccination histories on many of the animals that come into the Care Centers, we recommend that all adult animals receive a booster DA₂PP vaccination 2 to 4 weeks after the vaccine(s) were administered at the Care Center.

AC&C recommends that puppies less than 16 weeks of age receive a booster DA₂PP vaccination every 2 to 4 weeks, until they are at least 16 weeks of age.

All booster shots are the financial responsibility of the new pet owner and should be arranged through your regular veterinarian.

Spaying/Neutering Your Dog

Females should be spayed before they become sexually mature, before reaching 4 to 6 months of age. Spaying a female (removing the ovaries and uterus) helps prevent breast cancer, which can be fatal 50% of the time. It also helps prevent pyometra (uterine infection), a very serious problem in older females that must be treated with surgery and intensive medical care. Spaying also prevents unwanted animals from being born.

Neutering a male (removing the testicles) can reduce marking, decrease the urge to escape outside to look for a mate and reduce fighting between males.

Spay/Neuter Release Instructions

1. Your pet has had general anesthesia today and may be unsteady on his or her feet this evening. Restrict access to stairs and high furniture to avoid any accidental falls or injuries.
2. Please provide your pet with fresh, clean water. You can offer them a small meal in the evening, and then begin feeding normally in the morning. Anesthesia can make pets nauseous, so do not offer a large meal. If your pet vomits, do not offer them more food until the following morning.
3. Watch your pet for any vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, or decreased energy level. Some pets may vomit the evening of surgery but this should not continue. If you notice any of these signs or other signs of illness, please make an appointment to have your pet seen by a veterinarian. You may use the exam certificate provided to you at the time of adoption for a free office call at a participating veterinary clinic within 10 days of adoption.
4. Do not allow your pet to lick or scratch the incision site. If your pet is bothering his or her incision, you may need to get an Elizabethan collar for them. For female dogs, the incision will be on the ventral abdomen (belly). For male dogs, the incision will be in between their hind legs near the belly.
5. Check the incision daily; it should be clean, dry, and not have any areas that appear to be open or gaping. If you notice any discharge, heat, swelling, or redness you should have your pet seen by a veterinarian. You may use the exam certificate provided to you at the time of adoption for a free office call at a participating veterinary clinic.
6. Unless otherwise noted, the stitches are absorbable and do not need to be removed.
7. Do not bathe or groom your pet for the next 10 days, or allow him or her to go swimming.

8. Your pet's exercise should be restricted for the next 7-10 days to allow him or her to heal. Running, jumping, and rough play should not be permitted during this time.

9. If your pet has been sent home with medication, be sure to follow all directions on the label. Give the medication for the entire time indicated by the instructions, even if your pet does not appear to be sick.

General Dog Care

Before you bring your dog home you will need: dog food, food dish, water bowl, interactive toys, brush, comb, collar or harness, ID tags, leash, dog crate and bedding.

Feeding

You should feed your dog a high-quality dog or puppy food appropriate for his or her life stage and breed; food should be offered one to four times a day as appropriate for your pet. Feeding your dog at the same regular times will help to establish a routine and will greatly facilitate housetraining, if your pet is not already so trained. Provide fresh, clean water at all times and be sure to wash and refill the water bowls daily.

Diarrhea is common in newly adopted pets. This can be the result of a variety of causes, including stress, diet change, parasites, or even viral or bacterial infections. It can be helpful to gradually change your pet's food over to the new diet you choose to feed over 5 to 7 days by mixing in small but increasing amounts of the new food. If you do notice that your pet is having diarrhea, please make an appointment to have him or her seen by your veterinarian for exam and, if needed, for testing to determine the underlying cause(s).

Grooming

Grooming requirements vary substantially from breed to breed and depend on your dog's coat and lifestyle. Most dogs should be bathed when they become dirty or on a regular basis a few times a year. Dogs with medium to

longer length fur will require regular brushing and grooming, and certain breeds will need regular haircuts by a groomer. Frequent brushing in between bathing and grooming appointments helps keep your dog's coat clean and untangled, and can help to reduce shedding.

Housing

Dogs are social animals and need the company of others to be happy. Dogs should have a clean, dry comfortable place of their own in the house. Consider providing your dog with a crate. Crates are a very helpful training tool and dogs consider crates to be a private, safe place of their own as they are naturally denning animals. Crates should never be used for punishment however, must be of an appropriate size for your pet, and should not be used to confine your pet for very long periods of time on a regular basis.

Training/Behavior Modification

When you first bring a new dog home, you are building a new relationship. Dogs need consistency and clear, regular rules to follow. A training program will help you and your dog learn how to communicate effectively with one another. It will also help you to teach your dog how to be a good citizen in your home. Consider joining a dog training class, and reading animal behavior and training books. All training should involve positive reinforcement techniques and avoid the use of punishment. You may also contact the Pets for Life program at (917) 468-2938, or visit us at www.nycacc.org for a list of our educational flyers.

Identification

All dogs are required by law to have a current dog license and to have a collar with a license tag around their necks whenever in public. In addition, it is very important that your pet also wear an identification tag with your contact information. This identification, along with a microchip, can help ensure your dog is returned to you if he or she ever becomes lost. For more information on dog licensing in NYC, please visit <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/vet/vet-doglicense.shtml>. Visit your city or town website for information on dog licensing outside of NYC.

House-training

Any dog can be house-trained with time and consistency. All dogs need to be on a regular "outside" schedule. Use positive reinforcement to praise your dog when he goes outside. Only correct your dog if you catch him in the act. Never hit or scream at your dog if he goes in the house, as this will only teach him to be afraid of you. Use a dog crate and feed your dog on a regular set schedule to assist with your house-training program.

Exercise and Play

All dogs need regular exercise, although the amount, type, and frequency will vary depending on your dog's breed, age, and health. Regular exercise is critical for your pet's physical and emotional well-being. For most dogs, a short walk around the block or letting them out in the backyard is not enough. You should plan to spend one to two hours a day exercising your dog. This might include long leash walks or jogging with him, playing fetch, going to a dog park, or letting him swim. Many dogs enjoy playing with toys, people, and other dogs. Provide your dog with interactive toys and many opportunities to engage in the type of play he or she enjoys. Avoid rough play games, however, as these may teach your dog negative behaviors or even result in injury.

Health

Your dog should see a veterinarian at least once a year for an examination, and immediately if your dog is sick or injured. Your veterinarian will recommend which vaccines and other preventive medicines may be necessary for your dog.

Fleas and Ticks

Fleas and ticks are a problem that should be taken seriously. These tiny parasites feed off of your pets, transmit many diseases and irritate the skin. Carefully check your dog once a week for fleas or ticks. If there are fleas on your dog, there will be fleas and flea eggs in your house. Consult your veterinarian. There are several new methods of flea and tick control. You may need to use flea or tick bombs or premise control sprays, and will need to

treat all animals in your house. Make sure that any sprays, powders or shampoos you use are safe for all dogs and that all products are compatible if used together.

Heartworm

Heartworm is an infectious disease of dogs spread by the bite of a mosquito. Adult heartworms are long, large worms that live in the blood vessels going to the lungs. Heartworm infections will result in progressive health problems, including coughing, exercise intolerance and fatigue and can ultimately progress to heart failure and death if not treated. Treatment is expensive and can result in significant complications. However, heartworm infection can easily be prevented with regular monthly administration of preventive pills.

Your dog can be screened for heartworm disease with a simple blood test which is offered at the time of adoption. If you elected to have this test performed at AC&C prior to taking your pet home, please be sure to follow up with your veterinarian to see if a second test is necessary and to get your pet started on monthly heartworm preventive. If you did not have this test performed, AC&C strongly recommends that you speak to your veterinarian and have your dog checked for this very serious infection.

Kennel Cough

Kennel cough, which is an upper respiratory infection, is common in dogs that have spent time with dogs in close quarters (such as at a boarding facility or an animal shelter). Like the common cold in people, most cases of kennel cough are mild and will resolve with treatment in a short period of time. There are many different viruses and bacteria that can cause the syndrome referred to as "kennel cough" and it is important to have your pet seen by your veterinarian if you notice any coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, or red or runny eyes.



Animal Care & Control^{OF} NYC

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11 Park Place, Suite 805
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Manhattan Animal Care Center
326 East 110th Street
NY, NY 10029

Queens Pet Receiving Center
92-29 Queens Boulevard
Rego Park, NY 11374

Brooklyn Animal Care Center
2336 Linden Boulevard
Brooklyn, NY 11208

Bronx Pet Receiving Center
464 East Fordham Road
Bronx, NY 10458

Staten Island Animal Care Center
3139 Veterans Road West
Staten Island, NY 10309

Field Services
For information regarding abandoned
or stray animals, or animals
presenting a threat to public safety,
please call 311.

Please visit our website for Hours of Operation



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