



Make your Dog Adoption a Success

Counseling based upon the 10,000 dog adoptions we have sponsored in the last 5 years

Commitment Many of our dogs have already experienced a an unsuccessful family situation. We want this adoption to be successful. Dogs require work. Children often want a dog, but only adults have the ability to provide the care and commitment that a pet requires. Pet food, medical attention, yard cleaning, training expenses, and house cleaning are serious responsibilities. We can help you through almost any behavior problem that you will face, but only if you are committed to making this effort. Please be sure that you are prepared for this lifelong journey with your new companion. It will take several weeks for a dog to adapt to your new home.

Exercise Dogs require exercise for their physical and mental health. Active, high energy dogs require even more exercise. Walking on a leash, playing in a fence yard, playing under supervision, use of invisible fencing, playing with other dogs, dog training and dog sports, are all ways to provide exercise . Boredom, and lack of exercise, can make all behavior problems worse. Have you thought about how you are going to provide the daily exercise that your dog needs?

Leadership Dogs are pack animals who follow a leader. Submissive dogs will readily accept leadership and will suffer without leadership. Dominate dogs will readily assume leadership in your household and this will be a tremendous problem. You need to be your dog's leader by projecting confidence and by establishing rules, boundaries and limitations. Leaders are calm and do not need to shout or use excessive correction. We have behaviorists and dog trainers who want to work with you to ensure that you are your dog's new leader. Mouthing, pulling at the leash, scrambling ahead of the owner, claiming furniture, are all dominate dog behaviors that human leaders do not need to accept.

Training You will be training your dog from the moment you take your new pet home. Training occurs when you are conducting formal training, and all the time you think you aren't training. It is said that every trainer gets the dog they deserve. The top dog trainers use praise and rewards (treats, toys, play) exclusively. The top dog trainers NEVER use punishment or harsh treatment to shape dog behavior. Our dog trainers want to help you learn how to train your dog. There are many dog training classes available in York County and remember that dog training classes are intended to train you, not the dog.

Housebreaking Puppies need to be taught to relieve themselves outdoors and some mature dogs will need some remedial training also. Consistency, praise, vigilance, patience will lead to rapid toilet training. Crating is often used to confine puppies when they cannot be observed to prevent accidents from occurring between trips outdoors for relief. Your responsibility is to not allow accidents to happen. Some intensive work when you bring your dog home can prevent a lot of subsequent frustration. Your dog will need to learn your schedule and you will need to learn your dog's signals in order for housebreaking to be successful. A dog that is not "housebroken" may be a medical problem such as a bladder infection or, more likely, it is your failure to supervise adequately.

Selection We have about 80 dogs that are available for adoption and we adopt about 200 dogs each month. It is more important that you take the right dog home, than you take any dog home. If the perfect dog is not here for you today, then come back next week because we will have many new faces for you to see. It is important that the dog's energy level, age, and personality are matched to your needs and ability. Let us help you find the right dog; we want you and your new friend to have many happy years together.

Arriving Home Assume leadership immediately. You have many years ahead to show your dog affection, the more important tasks now are introducing the dog to its new surroundings and its new human pack, establishing your exercise routine, and enforcing the rules and boundaries that you want for the future. Please talk to us about specific questions that you have about your home and family so we can give you benefits of what we have learned from the 10,000 adoptions we have sponsored in the last five years.