



## Welcome Home Guide

Congratulations on becoming a new dog parent! Whether you adopted a puppy, adult or senior dog, we want the transition of your new companion to be a positive experience for everyone in the home. We ask fosters and veterinarians to evaluate our dogs for temperament and interaction with other dogs on an ongoing basis. Most of our dogs have been in shelters, boarding or a foster home anywhere from a few days to several months. Even though when they are adopted they are going to a home with love and care devoted to them, they might have some difficulty understanding why they have "lost" another home. The most important phase that dogs go through when arriving to their foster or forever home is the "decompression phase." Any change in a dog's environment or routine will cause some level of stress and it's our job as their guardian to be patient and guide them through this time- however long it takes. We ask you to read the following information to help you adapt to the adjustments you and your dog will make while becoming a whole family unit.

All dogs need structure/rules/boundaries for them to feel safe. They thrive on predictable routines. The greatest form of affection we can show our new dog is to fulfill their needs: their need to eat, their need to have clean water, their need to potty outside, their need to migrate/walk and their need to have a cozy/soft/warm crate (their den) to rest in. Of course you can pet your new dog; you can give him treats and a toy to chew. BUT- it's important to keep all of these things to a minimum for at least the first few weeks.

### **Before the Adoption**

You should have the following items: food, bowls for water and food, a leash, collar, name tag, harness, a crate and bedding. Please bring a collar, harness, leash, and name tag to the adoption. If you adopted a puppy, s/he may grow out of several crates, so try visiting garage sales or online marketplaces. Bedding can be a crate pad, blankets or sheets. You will want something that fits in the washing machine because let's face it- accidents happen! On the way home, your dog should be safely secured, preferably in a crate. Some dogs find car trips stressful, so having him in a safe place will make the trip home easier on him and you.

Dog-proof the area where your pooch will spend most of his time during the first few months. This may mean taping loose electrical cords to baseboards; storing household chemicals on high shelves; removing plants, rugs, and breakables; setting up the crate, and installing baby gates.

### **The Puppy**

The cute, little puppy you saw a photo online of or held at the adoption event last weekend is finally in your home. S/he is probably going to start teething soon, may cry themselves to sleep since this could be their first night away from their litter, shoes will be chewed up, and they will have accidents. All of these things are completely normal. It is important to be patient with your puppy as you both get to know each other and develop a routine.

### **The Adult Dog**

There are many advantages to adopting an adult dog- you already know the size and the disposition of your pet, something not known of a puppy. However, you do not know your pet's past. You do not know if s/he is housebroken or trained. S/he has had to adjust to multiple different situations in the past few months, so it is imperative you be patient with your new pet and let him know and understand your patterns.

### **The First Day Home**

When your dog first arrives, before they even go inside your home, take them for a 20-40 min. walk, depending on their health. When you get back to your home, keep the dog leashed and walk them calmly through the front door and while still leashed, walk around your home. Show him/her where the water and food dish are kept and where they will sleep. Once you have done a quick tour with the dog, take him to his crate area, allow him some water and practice crating exercises. The crate should be in an area of the house that is neither isolated nor in the middle of everything. You want your new dog to observe you and your family without feeling stressed and overwhelmed.

When your dog is indoors, be sure and keep a close eye on your new friend, going outdoors at frequent intervals to allow for potty. Take them to the same spot each time and praise heartily when the job is done. Bring him back in and put him in his crate. Let him rest. It's important to establish the routine and structure of the crate straight away.

After some time, leash the dog and remove him from his crate, hand feed him his meal (great bonding/engagement exercise) and then go outside for a potty break. Then back inside for some "out of the crate time" (still leashed). NO: rough play, wrestling, couch, beds, laps, kissy face, free roam through the house, interactions with any other pets, visits from your friends and family, trips to Petco or car rides (other than to the vet). The goal for these first few weeks is to help your dog learn the structure/rules/boundaries of your home. After free time, its back outside (still leashed) for potty and then back in for some crate rest.

Once you put your new dog in his crate, ignore him. Let him rest. The first few weeks for our new foster or adopted dog should be very simple. Walks/hand feeding/access to water/potty breaks/limited free time in the house/crate time; repeat.

If you wish to switch to a different brand of food, do so over a period of about a week by adding one part new food to three parts of the old for several days; then switch to half new food, half old, and then one part old to three parts new. To avoid your new best friend from getting diarrhea from a change in diet, add organic canned pumpkin or plain rice to the new food. If there is an accident in the house, please do not assume the dog is not housebroken. Your dog must get accustomed to this new home and new routines. However, loudly say "NO!" and take him/her outside immediately. You must catch the dog in the act if the correction is to be effective. NEVER hit your dog if an accident occurs. Praise, not punishment, is the key to a well behaved pet.

### **Period of Adjustment**

The first couple of weeks you and your pet are "getting to know one another." Your pet doesn't know why they have come to your home nor what is expected of them. Please be patient and anticipate problems before they occur. Don't leave tempting shoes, clothing, food or children's toys within reach of your dog. Try to leave the home with as little fanfare as possible- tearful goodbyes do nothing but add to your dog's anxiety. You should also refrain from introducing them to other animals and dog parks for at least two weeks post-adoption.

### **Things to Watch For**

When settling in, your dog may experience shyness, anxiety, restlessness, excitement, crying or barking. They may exhibit excessive water drinking, frequent urination, or diarrhea. Their appetite may not be good, either. If any of these symptoms last more than a few days, call your veterinarian.

### **Be Consistent**

Your new dog must learn a whole set of new rules, so be patient and be consistent. If you want him off the furniture, don't allow him to sit on the couch "sometimes." Don't allow him to do something one time and forbid it another.

### **Obedience Training**

Adopting a puppy from Harvey's Hope Animal Rescue consists of an obedience training enrollment clause in your adoption contract. We highly recommend all adopters enroll in basic obedience with their dog, regardless of age. Training can be a six-to-eight week class, taking one hour of your time one day a week. Your "homework" will be a training lesson with your dog for 10 minutes, 3 times a day. This will teach your dog the simple obedience commands necessary in having a well-behaved pet. Just as we must teach our children manners, we must also teach our pet. If you need recommendations on a trainer, let us know.

### **A New Member of Your Family**

Within a few weeks, your dog will have settled into their new home and new routine. Some dogs will take a little longer, but very few are unable to adjust at all. In most cases, the dog will be a well-adjusted member of the family within a month. And well worth it, it will be. In fact, you will probably have trouble remembering when he wasn't one of you. Don't forget- your pet is microchipped, so be sure to register your contact information with the chip's company. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to your adoption coordinator if you have any questions. *We thank you very much for choosing adoption. One adopted dog = one more we can save.*

# Common Parasites and Infections in Dogs



**HARVEY'S HOPE**  
ANIMAL RESCUE

As your dog settles in, it's important to learn about intestinal parasites that are common in all dogs, including rescue dogs. All of our dogs are dewormed as part of their preventative care while in foster in the south. Within 7 to 10 days of travelling to New England, they visit our veterinarian and receive a clean bill of health to travel - a health certificate. Despite these measures, worms and parasites often appear after transport and adoption due to the stress associated with transition.

If your dog tests positive for a parasite, PLEASE DO NOT PANIC. Parasites are common and easily treated. Your veterinarian may suggest a follow up fecal test to ensure the parasites are eradicated. We always encourage universal and commonsense precautions when cleaning up after your pet: clean up fecal matter quickly, sanitize after any accidents that occur inside the home, wash your hands after disposal of animal waste, and clean and sanitize kennels and bedding regularly.

## Hookworms

- Invade, inhabit and live in the small intestine
- Can cause dark and tarry stool, diarrhea, constipation and loss of appetite
- Transmitted through contaminated water and environment
- Treatment: Dewormer

## Roundworms

- Live in the small intestine
- Can cause vomiting, lethargy, abdominal distention, diarrhea
- Can be visible to the naked eye when long and present in high numbers
- Transmitted through ingestion of roundworm eggs present in water, vomit, feces and food
- Treatment: Dewormer

## Tapeworms

- Infects the small intestine causing irritation
- Tapeworm segments may be visible in fecal matter and resemble grains of rice or sesame seeds
- Treatment: Dewormer

## Whipworms

- Small, thin worms that dig into the lining of the large intestine
- Causes irritation, resulting in diarrhea
- Transmitted through ingesting infected soil, food, water, feces
- Treatment: Dewormer

## Coccidia

- Intestinal tract infection which can cause watery, mucus-like diarrhea
- Caused by stress (transport, new environment) and is spread through fecal matter
- Treatment is a combination of dewormer and medication to calm the GI tract

## Giardia

- Intestinal infection caused by ingesting infected fecal matter, directly or indirectly
- Causes diarrhea that can be greasy with a strong odor
- Treated with a medication to kill the parasite and sometimes medication to calm the GI tract

## Fleas, Ticks and Heartworm

Monthly preventatives are important to help keep your pet safe and healthy. These include flea/tick preventatives as well as heartworm preventatives. Your pet will be up to date for the current month, but be sure to see your veterinarian within the next days to discuss options and purchase your supplies for the upcoming months. There are a variety of options, including collars, chewables and topicals. These types of preventatives should be administered year-round; unless directed otherwise by your veterinarian.