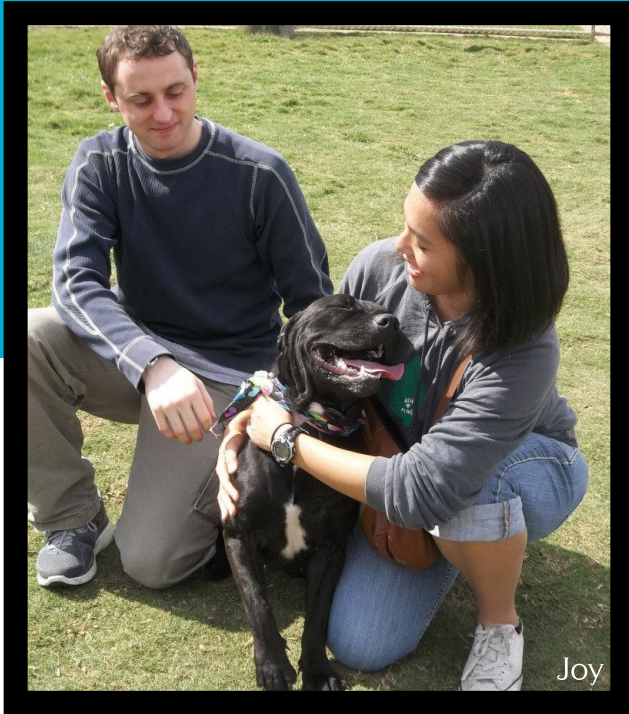


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Good Boy!



THANK YOU FOR ADOPTING!



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These are just a few general guidelines about your new dog or cat. Please remember that the first 30 – 90 days is going to be a learning time for both you and your new pet. Each of you will be working to develop a relationship with the other that includes learning dos and don'ts, likes and dislikes, and all the other great things that make relationships so much fun. Give your new friend time to get to know you and take time to get to know him/her. Keep in mind that any adoption is like introducing a toddler to your home. Keep a close watch to ensure your pet's safety and training are thorough and complete.

Special thanks to:

Dr. Jessica Lockhart, MS, PhD, CAAB for contributing material⁽¹⁾
and a grant from the



**ARLINGTON TOMORROW
FOUNDATION**

ALL PETS FEATURED IN THIS BOOKLET ARE ARLINGTON ANIMAL SERVICES ALUMS

- 🐾 Keep your new dog on a leash until you are inside your home.
- 🐾 Let your dog use the rest room outside in their designated area before entering the house. Give lots of praise for going in the correct spot.
- 🐾 Keep a short leash on your new dog and monitor. Stay close, but allow space for your dog to explore. If you notice sniffing or leg lifting that might indicate needing to pee, take them outside immediately.
- 🐾 Introduce one new family member at a time. Understand that this can be overwhelming and a bit scary so create a very calm atmosphere.
- 🐾 The first night might be the hardest. Do not punish, but also be careful to not reinforce whining. A crate in your room is a good option so they can see and hear you. A long walk before bedtime to relieve excess energy should also help.



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- food and water (see pg. 8)
- leash and collar (or harness)
- ID tags with phone #
- bedding (washable)
- toys and things to chew
- treats

You will now be the primary care taker of your new dog; this means you are responsible for taking care of their daily needs (feeding, exercising, socialization, etc).

- 🐾 Your dog may appear to become needy at first. This behavior should diminish within the first month. Remember not to make a big fuss (don't overly comfort whining, panting, pawing, etc), your new friend is trying to figure things out.
- 🐾 Always reward good behavior (lying quietly, sitting, playing, etc.W) with petting, praise, and/or treats. Remember, a pat on the chest or chin can be much more rewarding than any food.⁽¹⁾

It is unknown if the dog you have adopted has ever been around kids.

🐾 Your dog may have never been around children. It will be up to you to monitor the behavior of both dog and child at the same time.

🐾 When allowing your new dog to meet your children (or anyone else's children) make sure you have control of the animal by a leash or collar at the very least. *Do not put any tension on the leash*, but have it attached to the dog and held slack in your hand. A tight leash sends a clear signal to your dog that something bad is going to happen. You want to remove any/all possible negative signs from the introduction.

🐾 Instruct your child to move slowly and allow the dog to come to them rather than your child approaching the dog. Your child should stand side-ways to the dog (not directly facing) and place their hand out palm up. This will allow the dog to place its head in the child's hand rather than the child placing their hand on the top of the dog's head.

🐾 You should instruct your child to carefully and gently pet the dog's chin, chest, or side rather than the top of the dog's head. Avoid giving the dog a hug until you know how the dog will react. Hugs are very stressful to dogs and are seen more as restraint than as a sign of affection. Once you have a good feel for your dog you can allow more freedom of interaction, but always be alert when your dog is meeting a new child.⁽¹⁾



Lucy

With proper introductions, kids and dogs can grow up to be the best of friends and children learn so much from caring for a pet.



Vinnie

🐾 Teach your children to never disturb a sleeping or eating dog and to always treat their dog with kindness and to use proper touch to earn their trust.

Introducing your new dog to your current dog correctly is important to ensure that there is peace in your home. If you have more than one dog at home, then introduce each separately.

FIRST DAYS HOME

- It's always a good idea to go slower rather than fast when introducing new animals to established animals. Section off a small area of the house (could be a guest room, laundry room, or bathroom depending on the size of the animal) that can be the new animal's introduction point to the new house.
- Allow them to stay there for the first two weeks or so with a few short excursions into the house. These excursions should be supervised and on leash if possible, which will also help with house training.
- For the first 30 days or so you do want to control all interactions with the new dog and the resident animal/s to make sure that the interactions are all positive.

INTRODUCTIONS




- Begin by taking your new dog on a short walk with a leash outside your home. Make sure you are relaxed and exude a positive attitude.
- Next, have someone else bring your current dog outside and take the two dogs on a walk together. Make it fun with treats and lots of praise. Start single file, and then bring dogs closer. Allow the dogs to sniff each other while walking.
- After the walk, allow the dogs to sniff each other while still on neutral territory. *Do not put any tension on the leash*, but have it attached to the dog and held slack in your hand. A tight leash sends a clear signal to your dog that something bad is going to happen. You want to remove any/all possible negative signs from the introduction.



- 🐾 Allow the dogs to circle (dogs do not walk straight up to each other when greeting peacefully), start from far enough away to give the owners time to detect if there are any issues. Look for stiff body postures, ears forward, high body position, flagged tails, growling, vocalizing, cowering, whimpering, head wagging, paw lifting, rounding or lowering body positions, tail tucked, eyes widening, or pupils dilating.
- 🐾 If you see any of the negative signs quickly turn and move away from the approaching dog. Give the dogs time to calm down and reapproach. On the second try, go slow enough to allow the dogs to adjust to the situation.
- 🐾 If you see the signs starting the second time then wait until the dog calms down (shifts focus back to owner) then move away. Repeat these steps until the two dogs can come together peacefully. Do not force the dogs to interact! If they want to ignore each other, respect that choice and allow them to pass peacefully. The dogs will let you know when they are ready to interact. It's much better to accept their appropriate behaviors (including peacefully ignoring the other dog) than to force the issue. Two dogs that have a successful first meeting (meeting without reactivity) are much more likely to get along in the future than two dogs that are forced to meet each other.⁽¹⁾
- 🐾 If dogs are getting along, take them to the back yard and drop the leashes to allow them to play and get to know each other. Then walk into the house with both dogs as normal.
- 🐾 When moving inside, remember that this is your current dog's territory so put away their favorite toys and treats for now. Allow the other dog to explore, but keep a close eye on both dogs. Do not hover, but instead convey to both dogs that this is a happy event and praise good behavior. Do not forget to spend equal time with your new and current dog to avoid feelings of jealousy.
- 🐾 If there are any signs of aggression from either dog, separate and try repeating another day or consulting with a certified trainer.



It may be unknown if your new dog is house broken. Even house broken dogs can temporarily learn bad habits while being kenneled in a shelter. Remember that your house is a new place, and your new dog does not know where to go and it is your job to teach them. Reward your dog with praise when they correctly go outside to do their business.

-  Your new dog may or may not have learned how to ask to use the bathroom. Be sure to keep a close eye on them and watch for signs of impending elimination. Your dog will become antsy, begin sniffing the ground (usually in circles), may whine, or may try to sneak off. Keeping your dog on a leash/with you at all times for the first few weeks will help both of you learn the signs when they need to go outside.
-  If your dog has an accident in the house the only thing you can do is clean it up and watch your dog more closely. Once the elimination has occurred you have missed your chance to provide the dog with an appropriate location; the best thing to do is keep the dog a bit closer and make sure you are letting him/her out with some regularity for the time being (setting a timer can help).
-  **NEVER PUNISH AN ACCIDENT.** Some still believe that they can walk the dog back to the accident spot and punish the dog in the vicinity of the accident...all this does is teach the dog that it will be punished when you walk it. Dogs can't make the connection between things happening now (the punishment) and things that happened in the past (the elimination)...no matter if it just happened seconds ago.⁽¹⁾



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Crate training can be a very useful method to house train and make your new pet feel safe in their new home. This is a temporary training method to establish house rules and not necessarily recommended to restrain dogs for extended periods of time.

- 🐾 Crates come in different sizes and can be purchased at most pet supply stores. Your dog's crate should be large enough for him/her to stand up and turn around in, but not too big. Otherwise, they will use one end of it as a rest room.
 - 🐾 Make being in the crate a positive experience. Place treats near or in the crate to entice your dog to come near the crate and then inside. Once your dog enters, give him/her time with the door open and closed to experience it without stress or anxiety.
- 
- A photograph of a black and tan dog, identified as Daisy, lying down inside a wire crate. The dog is looking towards the camera. The crate is made of metal wire and has a white mat on the floor. The name 'Daisy' is written in the top right corner of the photo.
- 🐾 Gradually build up time in the crate. Place fun things in the crate to occupy your dog, durable items such as a Kongs or Nylabones.
 - 🐾 Develop a command or prompt such as 'crate' to say every time you put in your dog. Use treats or toys as rewards, especially at first. Lots of praise helps as well. Leave the door to the crate open when you don't have your dog inside.
 - 🐾 Begin feeding your dog near their crate and eventually inside to further establish it as their space. Close the door while they are eating and then open as soon as they are finished.
 - 🐾 Always provide water if they will be in crate for any extended period.
 - 🐾 Many dogs like to sleep in their crate or just chill out there. Dogs can grow to see their crates as their own den area and a safe place. A crate is not meant to keep dogs for long periods of time, just as a tool for training and establishing boundaries.

Additional Resources: <http://www.ddfl.org/sites/default/files/crate-train>.

- Place your new dog on scheduled feeding – preferably twice a day. Providing a feeding schedule (rather than free feed) allows your dog to mentally take a break. When food is present they will feel that the food needs to be eaten or protected. Using scheduled feeding allows your dog to eat its food with peace of mind (no need to defend left-overs) and allows you to predict when they will need to eliminate. Start your own feeding schedule according to your day.



Miley

- Feeding your dog a high quality diet will also reduce the amount of eliminations created during the day. In addition, high quality food has overall better nutrition that results in behavioral and physical health. Be wary of fad diets; dogs are omnivores and need to be fed a well balanced meal that includes carbohydrates, protein, fat, and fiber along with all the other necessary micro-nutrients.⁽¹⁾

- Keeping your pet at a healthy weight will defend them from many health problems and give them a longer, happier life. Avoid table scraps and opt for healthy treats such as sweet potato, baby carrots, bananas, apples, green beans, cooked eggs, or peanut butter.

POISONOUS FOODS

- Chocolate
- Caffeine (coffee grounds, tea bags, energy drinks, etc.)
- Onion and Garlic
- Grapes and Raisins
- Poultry and Fish Bones

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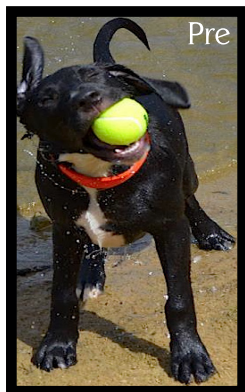
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Your new friend should have toys, but some toys need to be supervised.

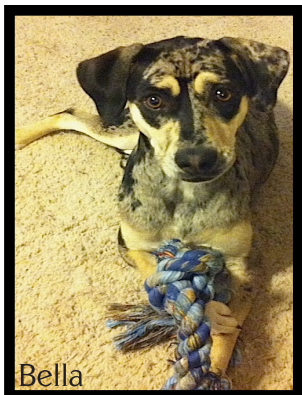


 Supervised toys include anything with stuffing or squeakers. Dogs will naturally tear apart soft toys and squeaky toys. Once they have the toys in pieces they may (usually) try to consume the stuffing or squeaker. These objects can cause health problems that can lead to expensive veterinary care. Once a toy starts to show signs of wear they should be removed and replaced.


 Unsupervised toys include hard

or durable objects. Kongs, Nylabones, etc. should be provided but monitored for wear. Once the toy shows signs of flaking, chipping, or cracking replace it with a new one.

 Rawhides are actually made of animal parts, dogs can become possessive of these toys. If you have other pets or children in the house you may want to limit your dog's access to rawhides (only for 10-20 minutes as a reward). In addition, rawhides can chunk off in



large pieces and pose some threat to your dog. If you use a rawhide treat try to find one that is composed of pulverized rawhide.⁽¹⁾

 Providing plenty of toys and appropriate things to chew on will keep your dog occupied, happy, and out of trouble.

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 **DFW**

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HEARTWORMS

- Heartworms are deadly parasites transmitted by mosquitoes and are rampant in Texas. The larvae lodge and reproduce in the heart, eventually causing organ failure and death. Heartworm disease is easily prevented with monthly pills available from your vet. Keep dogs on preventative year-round.



VACCINATIONS

- Every pet should receive regular vaccinations to keep them healthy, check with your vet for the schedule. Puppies require several rounds of core vaccines. Low cost vaccinations are available at the Arlington Shelter twice a month. Check the city website for dates and times.

LOST PETS

- All pets adopted from AAS have a microchip. Please make sure to keep information, especially phone # up to date and microchip all your other pets. Provide your pet with a collar and tag with phone # in case your pet is lost. Also, post flyers around town and to the city website.

BACK YARDS

- Regularly check your fence to make sure there are no holes or ways for you dog to escape. Dogs enjoy short periods outside in the back yard, but are pack animals and prefer to spend time with their family. It is never ideal to leave your dog outside overnight or for long periods of time, especially during the heat of summer. Always provide plenty of water. It is illegal in Arlington to chain or tether your dog in your yard.



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PUPPY PLAY

- 🐾 Teach your puppy early to behave the way you'd like them to when they are an adult. Do not wrestle or rough house a puppy, this teaches bad habits that won't seem so cute when they are bigger. If puppy is nipping, then use a sound such as 'ouch' in a high pitched voice then fold your arms and ignore them for 10-15 seconds. Remember to reward good behavior, even with just pets and love. Right now is the time to teach house rules, changing them in the future is much harder.

IMPORTANT COMMANDS

- 🐾 Besides the basic commands of 'Sit' and 'Down', there are some important commands to teach your new dog for their safety. Teach 'Stay' by starting dog in 'Sit' or 'Down' position. Use hand signal and say 'Stay'. If they hold spot for 1-2 seconds reward with a treat and gradually increase time. 'Stay' can keep a dog from running out the door and becoming lost. 'Come' is also another important command in case your dog escapes or gets off their leash. Start training inside and then move to a long leash outside. Always use a happy, positive voice and reward with treats and pets. 'Leave It' is also another very useful command.



WALKING


- 🐾 Walking your dog regularly is great exercise for everyone, but if he/she is pulling on the leash it won't be any fun. Don't start the walk until they are calm, then be sure you are always the first out the door. The goal is to maintain a loose leash with no tension on the leash. There are several methods such as stopping with tension until dog returns to heel position then reward, or turning and walking in opposite direction when there is tension. A gentle leader is a good tool that makes pulling uncomfortable and can be found at pet stores.

"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion." - Unknown

Dogs and cats can live in peace, but the introduction is important.

- 🐾 Your dog may have some wariness around its first introduction to cats; either on walks or in your home. When it first sees a cat it may walk right up and try to sniff the cat, keep a far distance but circle the cat, or run and hide. If you currently own a cat, you should take steps to ensure that the first meeting is a positive one.
- 🐾 The best way to introduce a new animal to your cat is in a slow, steady manner. Your cat will need more time to adjust than your dog, but both animals should be given ample time to get to know each other before coming face-to-face.
- 🐾 Allow your dog plenty of time to acclimate to the cat from afar. Keep the dog on a leash and have someone else keep the cat at bay. Once the dog's initial interest has calmed down (either fearful or excited), then allow the animals to come a bit closer but not touch. Provide praise/treats to each animal (dog and cat) as they progressively come closer to each other. These scheduled meetings should continue over the course of a week or two (depending on each animal's comfort level) before the animals are finally close enough to inspect each other. The end result may not be two animals that love each other, but you will have a dog and a cat that can live peacefully in the same home.⁽¹⁾






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 Keep your new cat in a carrier until you are inside the home. Understand that a new home can be scary and intimidating for a cat with strange sounds and smells so be patient and give them time to adjust.



 Start by setting up a safe room for your new cat. The room should have a litter box, food, water, scratching post, toys, and a soft place to sleep. Leaving your cat in the safe room and separated from your other cat(s) will allow him/her to calm down while getting to know and trust you.


 Kittens tend to transition more quickly into a new environment, but need more socialization than an adult cat. Give the kitten lots of time and love so they feel secure and learn to trust your family.

 We recommend keeping your cat indoors at all times to avoid harm from other animals and parasites. In addition, a cat can get hit by a car while simply chasing a squirrel across the street. Work with your children to ensure that they watch when entering and exiting your home.


SUPPLIES NEEDED

- food and water
- bedding (washable)
- litter box
- toys and playthings
- ID tags with phone #
- scratching post

VACCINATIONS

 Every pet should receive regular vaccinations to keep them healthy, check with your vet for the schedule. Kittens require several rounds of core vaccines. Low cost vaccinations are available at the Arlington Shelter twice a month. Check city website for dates and times.

LOST PETS

 All pets adopted from AAS have a microchip. Please make sure to the keep information, especially phone # up to date and microchip all your other pets. Provide your pet with a collar and tag with phone # in case your pet is lost. Also, post flyers around town and check the city website's lost and found section.



FIRST DAYS HOME

- 🐾 The new cat should be placed in a small sectioned off area of the house without any introduction to the resident cats. Try to limit disturbances as well but do spend time with the new cat each day.



- 🐾 Place a towel under the door to prevent curious paws from sticking in. Allow the new cat at least two to three days of privacy to adjust to the new house. It is normal for a new cat to hide, refuse to eat, and even refuse to use the litter box when

first brought home. These behaviors should lessen quickly when provided with enough space.

INTRODUCTIONS

- 🐾 After the first few days, remove the towel from the door to allow the cats to start detecting each other's scents. Make sure the resident cat is not camping out in front of the door. This is a great time to bring the resident cat outside the new cat's room and provide some tuna or very high value food that they normally do not receive.
- 🐾 Next crack the door and allow the cats to come nose to nose, but still not completely interact. Again, provide a lot of high value food rewards (this creates a very positive association between the new cat and good things happening). Repeat this process for a few days. Eventually allow the cats to come into full contact with each other.
- 🐾 Remember that cats are more passive aggressive than dogs. You might think everything went well, but then the new cat starts displacing the resident cat or the other way round. Displacements can be as subtle as one cat entering the room and the other cat leaving. This is a sign that more positive associations need to be established. Use interactive toys that both cats can play with in a collaborative method. All interactions must be supervised. Slowly start to allow the new cat out into the house. Placing the new cat quickly into the full house is overwhelming. It should take about 30 - 45 days to introduce the new cat to the entire house.⁽¹⁾



INTRODUCING KIDS

It is unknown if the cat you have adopted has ever been around kids.



- 🐾 It is important to teach your children how to handle cats and kittens as their noise and energy levels can make cats nervous.
- 🐾 Cats require a gentle touch, teach children to not pull tails and to pet correctly. Also, show the proper way to pick up and hold kitty by supporting the chest and back legs.
- 🐾 It is best if the cat is always allowed to approach the kids instead of the other way around.

Teach kids to earn the cat's trust so they will choose to be their friends.

- 🐾 If cat ever wants down or away from the kids then they should immediately be released and allowed to go to a safe space and not be chased.

LITTER BOX TRAINING

- 🐾 Ideally, you should have one litter box for each cat plus an additional box. There are many types of cat litter to choose from. There is no right or wrong kind as long as your cat uses it. Clumping litter should be avoided with very small kittens. Litter Boxes should be placed away from their food and sleeping area.
- 🐾 Keep the litter box as clean as possible to ensure that your cat uses it. Would you want to use a dirty toilet? Using the sand box comes naturally to a cat. If you notice your cat using the bathroom outside of the box and the box is clean take him/her to your veterinarian right away because your cat may have a urinary tract infection or consider what might be stressing the cat.
- 🐾 If your cat needs retraining, isolate them in a small room such as a bathroom and visit them often. Clean up accidents and reward them when you catch them using the box.



FURNITURE

- 🐾 Scratching is a natural behavior for cats, but you can deter your cat from scratching inappropriate items. Do not punish, cats do not understand physical punishment and it will not stop the behavior.
- 🐾 Scratching posts should be provided in the high traffic rooms or in areas that your cat has started scratching. Encourage your cat to scratch the post instead of the couch or chair by making it more enticing. Rub catnip, food, or even pheromones on the post to attract the cat. There are many kinds of posts available for very little expense.
- 🐾 Deter cat from the furniture by using herbal sprays that neutralize any territorial markings or double sided sticky tape that makes scratching furniture uncomfortable.
- 🐾 Keeping your cat's nails trimmed as part of their normal grooming routine will also help. Gently push on the pad to expose the retractable claw and clip the sharp tip with pet nail trimmers. Also, try caps for your cat's nails that can be worn for months and will stop scratching.



PLAY AGGRESSION

- 🐾 Cats and kittens are natural born hunters and can sometimes play too roughly, causing scratches and bites. Kittens in litters teach each other what is too rough, but your new cat may not have learned.
- 🐾 Never use your hand or feet for play. This will teach your new kitty that your limbs are for practicing their skills on. Instead, use interactive toys such as feathers on sticks or balls to fulfill their need for play.



- 🐾 Also, use noise as a deterrent to your cat's rough play. Never punish, instead say 'ouch' in a high pitched voice or clap.
- 🐾 Watch for signs of agitation or that kitty is about to pounce - twitching tail, crouching, etc. and redirect them to toys or leave them alone to calm down.



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Friends of Arlington Animal Services is a 501(c)(3) non-profit acting independently of the Arlington shelter, whose mission is to help increase the Live Release Rate at Arlington Animal Services and to see to the well being of homeless animals in our city. FAAS is committed to the homeless pets in Arlington and keeping them safe through promoting adoptions, marketing, encouraging volunteerism, supporting rescues, decreasing birth rates, and engaging the community.



 **THANK YOU FOR ADOPTING!** 

Please encourage your friends and neighbors to make adoption their first option when looking for their next pet.

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