

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW PET!

(EXAMPLE)

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW FURRY FRIEND!

1. Please review all the documents in your adoption folder, not only is there information on your new pet, but also information about resources available to everyone and how you can help even more pets in our shelter.
2. **If your new pet has not been spayed or neutered yet, you will need to have this done in 90 days.**
3. Your new pet may not eat the first few days home, this is completely normal. Moving to a new home is very stressful and most will not have a very good appetite. Expect this food protest to last a few days. Always keep water available, this is the most important. You can offer canned food or dribble some cooled bacon grease onto their kibble to help encourage an appetite. If they continue to refuse food or start to show signs of other illness, contact a vet immediately.
4. Your new pet may have received a dewormer shortly before adoption, you may see worms in their stool for a few days. The worms should be dead. The dewormer we use will only kill adult worms, not the eggs, so it is possible for them to reinfect themselves. Worm eggs can also be spread from animal to animal and tracked in by shoes. If you see worms in the stool past a few days, they may need a different dewormer or another dose that can be obtained from a veterinarian. There are also many flea prevention products that include parasite prevention, such as worms. Your pet may have also had a fecal test performed, you would have received a document labeled FECAL TEST INFORMATION for you to review.
6. Your new pet received a flea preventative, not only did it kill any active fleas it also will prevent new ones for 30 days from the time it was given. Keeping a pet flea free is very important, not only can the fleas be a nuisance to people but they can also cause the animal to become anemic, which can cause the animal to need expensive vet treatment. There are many products on the market that meet all budget needs and can also offer the additional benefits of preventing other life threatening parasites. A vet can review your options available to meet your lifestyle and budget.
6. Your new pet has received at least one vaccine through our shelter. For canines it is a vaccine that prevents five common diseases, including Distemper and Parvovirus. For felines it is a vaccine that prevents four common diseases, including Calici Virus and Panleukopenia. The diseases the vaccine prevents is to protect your pet from deadly outcomes and devastating vet costs. It is far cheaper to have the animal vaccinated properly than it is to treat the diseases or go through the emotional turmoil. Puppies and kittens are at the highest risk since their immune system isn't prepared yet. In order to fully protect them they will need a total of 3 rounds of vaccines, typically spaced 2 to 4 weeks apart. Once they have reached adulthood, they will only need a vaccine once a year to keep them protected. We do not vaccinate cats for FELV or dogs for LYME diseases. Speak with a veterinarian to determine if your new pet will need additional vaccines and how soon they should be done.

7. If your new pet is a dog over 6 months of age they have been tested for heartworms. Heartworms is a devastating and expensive parasite that lives within the animal's heart and is spread through mosquito bites. Treatment for heartworms can cost thousands of dollars and if untreated can significantly shorten your pet's life. It is far cheaper and easier to prevent them than to treat them. There are many products on the market that prevent heartworms to meet all budget needs, contact a veterinarian for more information.

8. Your new pet has had a microchip implanted as a form of permanent identification. This form of identification will always remain with your pet and will help return them to you if they were to ever become lost. It is not a GPS, the animal would have to be scanned at a shelter or vet clinic. If the microchip was purchased by our shelter, it is a lifetime registration microchip, meaning you will never have to pay to update your information or maintain your information. We will take care of your initial registration so you will have one less thing to worry about. If your phone number or address changes at anytime you will need to update this information - see the brochure included in your adoption folder for information. If your pet was microchipped by another shelter or veterinarian, you will need to have the microchip's information changed over to you. We will indicate who you will need to call to do that at the time of adoption.

9. Although your new pet has been vaccinated and received parasite preventatives, they have not seen a vet for a full exam through our shelter. We are able to recognize common diseases, injuries, and parasites, but our staff are not a replacement for a veterinarian exam. Many diseases or health conditions have an incubation period or simply need a qualified person to recognize. It is always recommended to have your new pet examined by a veterinarian within the first couple of weeks to ensure they are in good health, to ask any questions you may have, and to also learn about ways to keep your pet happy and healthy for a long life.

10. Although we do everything in our power to prevent the spread of disease and illness, it is not possible to guarantee your pet has not been exposed prior to entering our shelter, while in our care, or once they go home. If at anytime your new pet seems to be sick, call a veterinarian promptly. Many diseases and illnesses do have an incubation period of 14 days and can recover if they are seen for treatment by a veterinarian quickly. We are not a veterinarian clinic, so we are unable to diagnose or treat your new pet once they are adopted.

11. Most new pets and current pets will need an adjustment period before settling in with each other, family members and your home. Expect the adjustment period to be from 2 weeks to 3 months. Cats have the most need for time to adjust, they may hiss, swat, and growl at each other or other family members until enough time has passed to allow them to settle in. In the majority of cases, new and current cats will sort out a way to coexist with all family members, then they will work on building a friendship. There are many resources available online, including YouTube to refer to for assistance.

12. There are many, many, resources available to pet owners that address veterinarian and behavior modification needs to help avoid having to rehome the pet. Many resources can be found online for

free, including on YouTube. For the many reasons animals end up in shelters, can easily be addressed by families with the use of these resources.

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