



FOSTER GUIDE

May 2015



WELCOME! THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO BE A FOSTER HOME.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE AN UNDERDOG FOSTER FAMILY?

Fostering includes making room in your family for a new member, making time to take foster pets to adoption days and/or vet appointments, and making a safe and supportive environment for animals that may have had traumatic pasts. Beyond that, we've learned that our most successful foster families are those who understand the natural constraints of small volunteer-based organizations. We run our rescue as lean as we can to put every available resource into saving as many animals as we can. Help is always welcome and flexibility is enormously appreciated. Underdog Rescue can provide foster homes with food and crates for the animal to use during their stay. On average, our sponsored pets remain in our care for 1-5 months.





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FOSTER CARE AGREEMENT

PRINT NAME _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

DWELLING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____

ALTERNATE PHONE _____

PREFERENCES, IF ANY:

AGE: BABY (0-6 months) _____ YOUNG (6-18 months) _____ ADULT (18 mth - 8 yrs) _____ SENIOR (8+ yrs) _____

GENDER: MALE _____ FEMALE _____

BREED OR SIZE: _____

Are there any pet behaviors would you be uncomfortable dealing with?

TERMS OF CONTRACT/CONSENT:

1. I hereby acknowledge my consent to receive any dog agreed upon by Underdog Rescue and Placement, Minnesota, Inc. and myself.
2. I understand that the animal(s) shall remain the sole property of Underdog Rescue and Placement, Minnesota, Inc., and must be returned to Underdog Rescue upon request.
3. I agree to return said animal(s) upon request or if I am no longer able to care adequately for them.
5. I agree to provide the animal(s) with good and loving care, including but not limited to food, water, shelter and medication when required. I also agree that I will not smoke inside my home. Furthermore, I understand it is my responsibility to maintain control and possession of all animals belonging to Underdog Rescue. If, while in my control, said animal is lost and irrevocably missing, harmed and/or harmed to the point of death, I will reimburse Underdog Rescue for the unrealized income of the animal's adoption fee.
6. I understand and acknowledge that I do not have any right or authority to keep or place foster animals in other homes or with other individuals, nor do I have the right to take into custody any animal on behalf of Underdog Rescue, unless receiving explicit permission from Underdog Rescue and Placement, Minnesota, Inc. to do so.
7. I agree to hold Underdog Rescue and Placement, Minnesota, Inc. harmless from any direct or consequential damages arising out of this foster care arrangement.
8. I agree that Underdog Rescue and Placement, Minnesota, Inc. require at least 72 hours notice to find alternative care for the animal(s) in my care. However, all scheduled vacations require a two week notice to Underdog Rescue for new foster care arrangements.

SIGNATURE OF FOSTER CARE GIVER _____

SIGNATURE OF UNDERDOG RESCUE REPRESENTATIVE _____

PRINTED NAME OF UNDERDOG RESCUE REPRESENTATIVE _____

DATE _____ / _____ / _____





CARE:

To provide appropriate care of foster animal for the length of stay in your home.

FOOD:

Underdog will provide the proper food for your foster unless you can provide it yourself. If you choose to buy your own food, it must be approved, 4- or 5-star kibble or canned food, or raw food. You must notify Lacey at least one week in advance when you will need more food. Ideally we would like to coordinate this with an adoption event you will be attending.

TREATS:

Junk food treats should not be fed to your foster dog (i.e. Beggin' Stripes, Milk Bones, rawhides, etc.). Refer to page 8 for examples of appropriate treats. AGAIN – NO RAWHIDES!

SAFETY:

You must provide a safe environment for your foster pet. See pages 23–26 for tips and information.

FOSTER UNTIL ADOPTION:

We hope that our foster families will commit to continuing to foster until the pet is adopted. Often foster families are the first stable and loving home for the pet. It is in the pet's best interest to build a stable relationship.

MOVING OR TEMP FOSTERING:

In the event that you are unable to continue fostering, we require at least 72 hours before moving an animal if things are not working. For scheduled vacations, we need 14 days notice if the animal needs another foster home while you are away.

Please fill out and submit our Temp Foster Form when a temporary home is needed for your foster: goo.gl/forms/cvpploag6G

SOCIALIZING:

We ask that you make every effort to continue socializing your foster pet. Some ways that you can ensure good socialization is to bring your foster dog on daily walks, to dog parks, and shopping in pet-friendly businesses.

MEDICAL CONCERNS:

If your foster pet becomes injured or ill, all vet work must be approved by Shannon prior to going to the vet. Do not take your pet to the vet without permission or you may be responsible for the costs.

In the event of a true medical emergency, text “911” to both Shannon and Lacey. Call Shannon first; if she doesn't answer, then call Lacey. **Shannon McKenzie:** 952-239-9595 | **Lacey Crispigna:** 651-366-2150

Non-Emergency Medical Care: Email or call Lacey

ADOPTING YOUR FOSTER:

It is possible you might fall in love with your foster and decide to adopt, and that's OK. If you want to adopt your foster, you will pay the full adoption fee. Also, you will not receive preference over other approved applications already received.



FOSTER RESPONSIBILITIES

GROOMING:

Depending on the breed of your foster dog, regular grooming may be necessary. Daily/weekly brushing is helpful to avoid matting and also helps your foster learn to trust you. Do not cut your foster dog's hair yourself unless given permission to do so. If your foster needs to be professionally groomed, you can either take the dog to your own groomer or schedule a time with one of our grooming partners.

ADOPTION EVENTS:

We ask that foster homes be available for routine vet visits and adoption events, including separate meet and greets. These individual meet and greets can be scheduled according to the needs of the foster home, within reason.

Please visit our events page on our website to find out where and when the adoption event will take place:

www.underdogrescuemn.com/events

Each foster family needs to commit to attend at least two adoption events each month as these are the best opportunities for the dog to potentially find forever homes. If there is a month where you cannot commit to two events, contact Emily to discuss alternate ways to get your foster to the events.

MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED TO FOSTER

We rely on the generosity of our fosters to provide the comfort items and basic supplies that every pet needs and deserves. We cannot reimburse you for these items, but save your receipts - they may be tax-deductible.

- Beds, Blankets, Towels
- Bowls (Water and Food)
- Brushes
- Extra Leashes
- Shampoo
- Nail Clippers
- Paper Towels
- Nature's Miracle

UNDERDOG GEAR:

We encourage our volunteers to show support by wearing Underdog Rescue gear. T-shirts and sweatshirts can be purchased at adoption events via order sheets. You can also purchase at: www.cafepress.com/underdogrescue

FACEBOOK:

If you have a Facebook account we can add you to our foster volunteers group. You can use this to connect with other volunteers. We encourage our volunteers to ask questions and share any tips or success stories they may have. Request to join the group via the link below: www.facebook.com/groups/517446851631783/

PETFINDER BIOS:

It is extremely important to keep your pet's bio updated. Potential adopters want as much information as they can get about the temperament, training and endearing qualities of the pets. As the foster, you are the best source for this information. To update your foster dog's Petfinder bio, either email Emily or fill out the online form below.

www.underdogrescuemn.com/foster-home-pet-profile-form/ Password: ISaveLives (case sensitive)

Fill out the Foster Pet Survey here: goo.gl/forms/Sfcf5l3h9D



FOOD & CRATES:

Underdog Rescue will provide food and crates for the animal to use during their stay if you are unable to provide your own.

PLACEMENT:

Underdog Rescue will work hard to find permanent placements for pets in a timely manner.

BEHAVIORAL ISSUES:

We will make every effort to resolve behavioral issues as deemed necessary by Underdog Rescue staff.

SUPPORT:

We urge foster homes to connect with other volunteers for support and advice. If you have a Facebook account we can add you to our foster volunteers group. You can use this to connect with other volunteers. We encourage our volunteers to ask questions and share any tips or success stories they may have. Request to join the group via the link below: www.facebook.com/groups/517446851631783/

FOSTER CARE SUPPORT

EMILY BAIRD: emily@underdogrescuemn.com | 612-718-0365

Contact Emily regarding adoption events and foster pet bios.

LACEY CRISPIGNA: lacey@underdogrescuemn.com | 651-366-2150

Contact Lacey regarding any other foster pet needs, such as food & supplies and medical concerns.

SHANNON MCKENZIE: underdogrescue@petml.com | 952-239-9595

Contact Shannon for emergencies.

ADOPTION COORDINATORS

Adoption coordinators will help with all things related to an adoption.

- Communicating with Directors
- Reviewing and contacting applicants that apply online or via paper applications at events
- Setting up home visits and sending out reference checks
- Coordinating plans for finalizing adoptions





ACCEPTABLE FOOD BRANDS & TREATS

PLEASE READ THE INGREDIENTS! www.dogfoodadvisor.com/best-dog-foods/best-dry-dog-foods

GOOD FOOD BRANDS

- Orijen/Arcana
- NutriSource
- NOW Fresh
- Taste of The Wild
- Nature's Variety
- Natural Balance
- Canidae/Felidae
- Fromm
- Nature's Logic
- Merrick
- Back to Basics
- Canine Caviar
- Evangers
- Honest Kitchen

*Note that this list is not all inclusive. Ask us if you have questions

GOOD TREATS

- Recreational raw bones
 - _ marrow bones
 - _ knuckle bones
 - _ feet
- Pizzles
- Flossies
- Bully Sticks
- Cow Noses
- Pig's Ears
- Dehydrated Liver and Lung Treats
- Quality grain free kibble (free samples at "It's a Pet's Life")
- Apples, carrots, bananas, peas, etc.

THINGS TO AVOID!

- Rawhide of any kind
- Anything with:
 - _ Corn, wheat, or soy
 - _ Preserved with BHT or BHA
 - _ By-products of any kind
 - _ Meat and bone meal
 - _ Artificial colors and flavors
 - _ Sweeteners like high fructose corn syrup
- Junk food treats such as Beggin' Strips or Milk Bones
- Any food on www.dogfoodadvisor.com that rates below 4 stars





All of our dogs and puppies have been thoroughly evaluated for temperament, activity level, and medical soundness. They are up-to-date with immunizations and are spayed or neutered (if they are 6 months or older) prior to placement. Those who are not old enough to be altered before placement will be adopted with a spay/neuter certificate for a free alteration at participating veterinarians. Most are micro-chipped, and all are tested for heartworms.

Adoption Fees typically start at \$395 and range up to \$595 or more

- These fees are based on incurred vet work, and keep in mind the long-term financial needs of particular breeds.
- Completing an application does not guarantee a hold on the dog.
- We will only place canines in homes within 60 miles of Minneapolis, MN
- We will not place our animals in homes with intact animals.
- A home visit is required for all dogs.

ADOPTION PROCESS FOR DOGS

Potential adopters may apply for your foster after meeting him at an adoption event or seeing his listing online. The more events your foster attends, the better his chances of being adopted.

The Adoption Coordinator (AC) for your foster will review the application and contact you if it is approved. If the applicant has not met your foster yet, the AC will either ask you to set up a one-on-one meeting, or if your foster is scheduled for an adoption event in the next few days, may let you know to expect to meet the applicant at the event. The AC can give you information about the application (e.g., if they have kids or other dogs). You should make sure the AC knows if there are particular requirements for your foster (e.g., he should only be placed in a home with other dogs). If you schedule a one-on-one meeting, do so wherever you feel most comfortable – in your home, the applicant's home, or at a neutral location, like a pet store or dog park. You might also want to consider the environment that will be least stressful for your foster.

After the meet and greet, the AC will welcome feedback from you about the meeting. If everything went well and the applicant wants to move forward, the AC will schedule a home visit and request reference checks. The AC may determine that your foster should attend the home visit and will coordinate that with you. In some cases, the AC may plan to complete the adoption at the time of the home visit. If not, and the home visit is approved, the AC will contact you to schedule a time to complete the adoption and transfer your foster to his new family.





Foster volunteers are required to attend a minimum of 2 adoption events per month. You must notify Emily at the beginning of each month, via email or RSVP on Whoozin, which events you will be attending. Please try to give as much advance notice as possible if your plans change as we list the attendance dates on your fosters online profile.

Please visit our events page on our website to find out where and when the adoption event will take place:

www.underdogrescuemn.com/events

WHOOZIN:

We use an online event RSVP service called WHOOZIN to invite all of our staff to adoption events. www.whoozin.com

Fosters must respond to the event invitations from Whoozin within a reasonable time so that we can let potential adopters know which events your foster will be attending.

ADOPTION EVENT RULES:

- You must attend at least **2** adoption events each month. Please check the website for current times and locations.
- Please do not bring your own pets to an adoption event. They are for foster dogs only.
- Whenever possible, please arrive 30 minutes prior to the event start in order to help set up and get your pet ready to meet potential adopters. While at the event, please help out as needed with cleaning up accidents, greeting visitors, and keeping dogs safe. If you are able, we always welcome help cleaning up after the event.
- We request that you stay at the event with your foster as often as you can. Adoption events are very busy and we can use everyone's help. There's no better person to talk to potential adopters about your foster than you. If you need to leave during the event, please make sure another volunteer has any helpful information about your foster. You must return promptly at the end of the event. We often need to be done by a specific time.
- If someone is interested in walking a dog, a volunteer must accompany them, or we need collateral (a driver's license) to hold until the dog is safely returned. A volunteer needs to check that the harness and leash are secure before the dog leaves the adoption area. In some adoption event locations, we are limited to walking dogs outdoors only, so be sure you know whether or not it is acceptable to bring a foster into the main store area. Only adults may walk dogs. Children need parental supervision when interacting with dogs.
- Keep in mind that not all dogs like other dogs. Please keep your foster on a close leash when entering an event. Make sure they respect other dogs' special needs. If you have a dog that does not like other dogs please inform others to minimize problems.
- People love to ask lots of questions at adoption events. It is so helpful to have volunteers there to help, but if you don't know an answer, please don't guess. There are usually several Adoption Coordinators there who can help answer the question.





Although fostering is one of the most rewarding things you will ever do to help save animals, it does not come without risks. This section will hopefully give you some ideas of what types of risks to expect while fostering through Underdog Rescue.

FALLING IN LOVE

This is one of the greatest fears of many new fosters. New foster applicants often say, “but how do you not fall in love with every one of them?” The answer is different for everyone and each foster deals with it in his/her own way. One good tip of advice is to always remember, as each foster comes and goes, you were there to bridge that gap between unwanted and homeless to loved and forever home! It’s an amazing feeling that will never go away and the more times you can foster, the more lives can be saved.

HEALTH/INJURY RISKS TO RESIDENT PETS

This risk cannot and should not be over looked. Most fosters have pets of their own, as the love for animals brought them to fostering. They love their pets as their children and of course want no harm to come to them. We do our very best to ensure that all dogs going into foster homes are free of diseases that would be contagious to other animals. It is however, not guaranteed, as illnesses are sometimes unpredictable. Most of our rescued pets come from lives of suffering and awful living conditions. Many have traveled many miles to find their final home here in Minnesota. Some may bring with them parasites, kennel cough, and other health issues. With our experience rescued pets also can hide their illnesses VERY well. They have learned survival techniques and know that the weakest do not make it. Some dogs also do not come into rescue with up-to-date vaccines. We do our best to make sure they are vaccinated prior to being placed in a foster home. If this is a concern of yours, please be sure to confirm vaccination prior to placement in your home. In most cases, if your pet is current on vaccines/titers, there is no risk. Even with multiple deworming, parasites can take a long time to overcome in a previously unhealthy puppy mill dog. In the meantime, it is always a best practice to pick up and dispose of feces immediately, in the yard as well as your home. Lastly, dogs are pack animals. In most cases it takes time for new dogs to fit into the current household pack. New foster dogs should not be left unsupervised with resident dogs until a good pack dynamic is achieved. Please read the section on how to introduce new dogs to your household pets for a smooth transition.

RISKS TO PEOPLE

We rescue many, many fearful dogs from puppy mills. Please always take extra caution when getting to know your foster dog, especially around children and often men. Many will fear bite as they do not know how else to protect themselves from what they fear. Learn to read dog body language; study it and constantly observe.

DAMAGE TO YOUR HOME

As most pet owners should know, pets make messes and can damage things. Most of our dogs are not potty trained when entering into a foster home for the first time. They have lived in cages for their whole lives and need you to teach them where they should go potty. Many do not know what objects like electrical cords, shoes, clothes, or kids toys are and may start to explore once they are comfortable. Exploring can lead to damage to household items and injury to themselves so we recommend you always keep a close eye on your foster dog especially while it is learning about life in a real home.



UNDERDOG RESCUE CONTACTS



Underdog Rescue hours:

9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday

10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Shannon McKenzie: underdogrescue@petml.com | 952-239-9595

Lacey Crispigna: lacey@underdogrescuemn.com | 651-366-2150

Laura Flaherty: laura@underdogrescuemn.com | 763-242-3052

Emily Baird: emily@underdogrescuemn.com | 612-718-0365

Response time may be up to 48 hours on non-urgent issues.





DISTANCE:

We only adopt to homes within 60 miles of Minneapolis, MN.

SPAY/NEUTER:

We will not place our pets in homes with unaltered animals.

DECLAW POLICY:

We have a strict NO DECLAW policy, where adopters must agree to never de-claw adopted cats.

For more information on de-clawing and its alternatives, please visit www.declawing.com.

RETURN POLICY:

We have a lifetime commitment to our animals; all adopters must agree to return their pets to us if placement is not deemed successful.

SOCIALIZATION:

We strongly encourage continued socialization and formal obedience training for all dogs under the age of eight.

CHILDREN:

If you have children younger than 5, and do not already have a canine in the home, understand that adding a dog or cat will be like adding a permanent 2-year-old child to your responsibilities. For this reason, we will only place our pets in homes with children younger than 5 on a case-by-case basis.

ADOPTION FEES:

All adoption fees are non-refundable, so please make sure that you are making the right decision for both you and the adoptable pet.

PUPPIES:

Puppies cannot develop proper social skills when left alone for long periods of time. The ideal situation would be adopting a puppy as a second canine companion in a home where they are left alone less than 6 hours a day.

We highly recommend our adopters look into dog walkers, daycare centers, etc.

KITTENS:

Young kittens do best when placed in homes with existing pets. Because of this, we will not place a kitten younger than 4 months in single pet households.





To keep this as simple as possible, this handout will outline how Underdog Rescue views canine nutrition, but much of this information can be applied to feline nutrition in most circumstances.

Nutrition is a vital part of raising a healthy dog. Nutrition feeds the animal's body with essential minerals and elements that give it the energy to live life to the fullest. "You are what you eat," so let's make it good!

Many commercial products available today have many species **inappropriate** ingredients such as meat by-products, corn, wheat, soy, color dyes, preservatives, spray-on rancid fat, and even high fructose corn syrup. Most pets fed an inappropriate diet will not suffer from the effects right away; they will most likely survive, but will they THRIVE? The signs and symptoms to eating a low quality diet may be minor at first; maybe some dry, flaky skin, weight gain or recurring diarrhea that goes away with conventional treatment. Eventually, most inappropriately fed pets will develop a disease, be it cancer, diabetes, irritable bowel disease, chronic allergies or kidney disease, etc.

Dr. Karen Becker has a very good video on how to choose an appropriate food for your pet.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTWHxvjl_as (part 1)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdDPi-1Yjy0 (part 2)

To help you choose an appropriate commercially-prepared food, please visit Dog Food Advisor www.dogfoodadvisor.com. From this website we recommend foods that are rated with 4 or 5 stars. Make sure to **always read ingredients** before you buy something that your dog is going to consume. Remember that ingredients are listed in order of weight. Look for foods with at least two or three of the first five ingredients being from a protein source with the number one ingredient being a protein source.

For example: "Ingredients: Bison, chicken, chicken meal, peas, pea flour" (chicken meal is considered a meat concentrate and contains nearly 300% more protein than fresh chicken). Also be sure to look at the carbohydrate sources to avoid any inappropriate foods like corn or soy. Watch the video above (part 2) for great details on reading pet labels.

All new adopters **must** agree to feed a premium, commercially-prepared food or balanced homemade raw or cooked diet prior to adoption. No grocery store brands are acceptable; Science Diet, Iams, Eukanuba, Pedigree, Beneful and Purina brands are on the list of unacceptable brands.



The chart below outlines how our feeding choices for our pets (companion carnivores) can affect their health. The closer to the upper level choices, the better the chance for optimal health. You will likely be in the middle ranges most of the time. That is fine, as long as you always strive toward the ideal.





Diet decisions are not a matter of right or wrong. If you understand what is ideal, you can then create a feeding program that will help move your pet closer to the healthiest diet options. In general, the more real food your dogs and cats eat, the healthier they will become.

From Dr. Marty Goldstein <http://www.drmarty.com/what-should-i-feed-my-pet-for-best-health/>

From our friends at Lake Harriet Veterinary lakeharrietvet.com/pet-care-resources/articles-information-packs/

Commercial dog and cat foods come in a dizzying array of shapes, colors, textures, and qualities. We have attempted to compile a list of recommended foods in terms of their wholesomeness, lack of additives, high digestibility, and availability. While this list cannot be all-inclusive it is meant as a starting point for selecting a quality food.

For animals with specific health issues this selection should be discussed with your veterinarian.

Our opinion is that the ideal diet for your pet is a fresh, well-balanced, home-prepared diet. While this is not a feasible option for everyone and is not without a few contraindications, if you are interested in a home-prepared diet you should discuss the options with a veterinarian who is both open to and has experience with these diets.

RAW/BARF DIETS:

There are a variety of commercially available preparations of raw meat, bone, fruits, and vegetables, ground into convenient patties or cubes and frozen. These approximate the quality of a home made food and are well balanced.

Examples:

- BARF patties – (Raw frozen)
- Nature's Variety – (Raw frozen)
- Primal Pet Foods – (Raw frozen)
- Raw Bistro – (Raw frozen)
- Woody's Pet Food Deli – (Freshly prepared pet food made right here in Mpls and St. Paul)

NATURAL PET FOOD PRE-MIX:

Consist of grains, herbs and nuts. Water, fresh meat, and vegetables must be added to balance these diets.

- Sojourner Farms – Locally made

Here are some good options for commercially prepared dry and canned foods:

- California Natural
- Canidae / Filidae
- Merrick
- Orijen
- The Honest Kitchen * dehydrated food-add water
- Innova
- Nature's Variety
- Wellness



When you bring home your new family members, you naturally want to shower them with love and affection. You pledge to give them the best food and give them many treats. Although this can certainly feel like love, you may also be putting your new dog at risk for obesity and an unhappy life.

Obesity can cause many serious health problems in pets of any age. Too much weight stresses bones and joints, strains the heart and other internal organs, crowds the lungs, and turns a simple walk around the block into a major chore. In fact, overweight dogs suffer much the same risks and consequences as overweight humans.

Finding and maintaining your dog's ideal weight can significantly extend your pet's life. Did you know that dogs that maintained a healthy weight lived 1.8 years longer than their overweight litter mates? That's a bonus of nearly 2 extra years of life... just for keeping your dog close to his ideal body weight!

Sometimes it's hard to read the charts stating how much food your dog should be consuming. Please remember this is just a guideline. Just as there are weight ranges for humans, dogs also have weight ranges. You may need to adjust the amount of food given depending on your dog's activity level.

The best way to figure out a healthy weight is to look at your dog. Does he have a waist when viewed from above? Is the abdomen raised, and not sagging, when viewed from the side? Feel your dog. You should be able to easily feel the ribs, but not be able to see them. Check out the link below for a visual guide.

<http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/how-to-evaluate-your-dogs-weight.html>

If you still want to treat your dog, that's great! Just remember to adjust his food intake at meals or try some tasty low calorie treats. Many dogs enjoy apples, blueberries, watermelon, green beans, carrots, lettuce, squash and sweet potatoes, just to name a few.

SOURCES:

dogfoodadvisor.com

Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Vol. 220 No. 9, May 1, 2002, pp. 1315-1320

<http://avmajournals.avma.org/doi/abs/10.2460/javma.2002.220.1315>

petmd.com



- **Bone Adventure:** 612-920-2201, 5045 France Ave. S. www.boneadventure.com
- **Calhoun Pet Supply:** 612-824-1094 corner of 36th and Bryant Ave. S. <http://tinyurl.com/p9zxd3e>
- **Chuck and Don's Pet Food Outlet:** 612-926-8161 chuckanddons.com
- **It's A Pet's Life:** 763-476-7372 1115 Vicksburg Lane N Plymouth www.itsapetslife.com
- **Linden Hill's Natural Home Store:** 612-279-2479, 2822 West 43rd (Mpls) www.lindenhillscoop.com
- **Lulu and Luigi:** 952-929-5858, 3844 Grand Way (St. Louis Park) www.luluandluigi.com
- **Pet Stuff:** 952-930-9383 14665 Excelsior Blvd (Minnetonka) www.petstufftonka.com
- **Suburban Feed and Supply:** 952-935-2700 1404 Main St (Hopkins) <http://tinyurl.com/q4a4krn>
- **Twin Cities Natural Food Coops** (many)
- **Urban Tails :** 612-879-0709, 2106 Lyndale Ave S (Minneapolis) www.urbantailspet.com
- **Woody's Pet Food Deli:** 612-208-0335 3008 W 50th (Mpls) www.woodyspetdeli.com
- To learn how to make/prepare raw foods yourself, contact Lacey at lacey@underdogrescuemn.com



A PROPER INTRODUCTION

Ideally, first time meetings should occur on neutral territory. However, well-socialized dogs, like puppy mill dogs that have spent their entire lives in close contact with other dogs, are often just fine meeting almost anywhere. If there is any concern about the dogs’ personalities it is usually good to have them meet by going on a walk. At the start of this walk, you will take the lead with your existing dogs, while your friend or family member follows behind with the new dog. After a while, it’s time to drop back and let your original dog sniff the new dog’s rear, but don’t let them meet face-to-face yet, as that can lead to fights. Resume the walk with the original dog in front, and then let the new dog have a sniff. Gradually, you can bring the entire pack together, with the dogs walking on the outside and the humans in-between. When they are in a calm state and walking together without incident, then it’s time to bring the pack home. The one essential difference with multiple dogs is that your original dogs enter the home first with you, and then you bring the new dog in. This allows your original dogs to “invite” their new pack member into the territory.

DOGS TO DOGS

The number one rule when bringing a new dog into a household that already has dogs is to do it gradually. The worst mistake people can make when adding a new pack member is to just bring the dog into the house. To the dogs that were already there, this is an intrusion on their territory by a stranger. To the new dog, being thrust into an unknown environment leaves it without any rules to follow or boundaries to respect.

THE FIRST COUPLE OF WEEKS AT HOME

It’s crucial to avoid squabbles during the early stages of your dogs’ new relationship. Pick up all toys, chews, food bowls and your current dog’s favorite items. When dogs are first forming a relationship, these things can cause rivalry. These items can be reintroduced after a couple of weeks, once the dogs have started to develop a good relationship. Give each dog his own water and food bowls, bed and toys. For the first few weeks, only give the dogs toys or chews when they’re separated in their crates or confinement areas. Feed the dogs in completely separate areas. Pick up bowls when feeding time is over, as some dogs will compete over bowls that recently contained food. Keep the dogs’ playtime and interactions brief to avoid overstimulation and overarousal, which can lead to fighting.

Confine the dogs in separate areas of your home whenever you’re away or can’t supervise their interactions. Give your new dog his own confinement area. When the dogs are separated, it might be a good idea to let them get to know each other through a barrier, like a baby gate. Your new dog should be gated in his confinement area, and your current dog should be free to move around and visit when he wants to. Finally, once your dogs have become a pack, it is important that you let them establish the hierarchy among themselves, with you and the other humans in the house as the pack leaders, of course. It can be a natural tendency for us to show favor to the dogs that have been in the pack longer and try to make them the dominant dogs. However, dogs don’t work this way, and if you try to force a submissive dog into a dominant position, it will only make the submissive dog very anxious and insecure, while making the dominant dog resentful. Your new pack will let you know which dog is dominant and which one is submissive (or they will take equal positions on their own), and they will be happier for it if you allow them to make this one rule for themselves. **Remember: Work with Mother Nature, not against her.**

REFERENCES

www.cesarsway.com/dog-training/dog-socialization/A-New-Member-of-the-Pack

www.asPCA.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/dog-behavior/introducing-your-dog-new-dog





DOGS TO CATS

Many dogs and cats get along very well, however, keep in mind that dogs and cats, like people, need time to get to know each other. If they've never seen each other before, they probably won't be instant friends. Since cats take awhile to accept new cats, your cat might not accept a new dog as quickly as you'd like. It might take years for a trusting, mutually agreeable relationship to develop between a cat and dog that live together. Across a few days, rotate which animal has freedom and which is confined to allow each animal plenty of time to investigate the other one's scent. Sometimes the dog should be confined to a crate or another room (or taken to another location if he can't be left alone) to allow the cat time to roam free and investigate the smell of the dog. When no one is home, the dog or cat must always be securely confined so unsupervised interactions are not possible. Once the dog is calm (or at least not obsessed with the cat) and the cat is calm, eating and using the litter box normally, you allow both animals to be in the same room at the same time, but keep the dog securely leashed. Continue with this type of introduction until the dog is calm and ignores the cat, and the cat is calm, eating and using the litter box normally. Continue indefinitely until both the dog and cat seem happy and relaxed around each other. Unsupervised time together can occur after the cat and dog have been supervised around each other for a significant period of time (a month or so) and you are positive they will not hurt each other.

REFERENCES

www.asPCA.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/cat-behavior/introducing-your-cat-new-dog

www.americanhumane.org/animals/adoption-pet-care/dog-behavior/introducing-dogs-to-cats.html

www.asPCA.org/pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist/cat-behavior/introducing-your-cat-new-cat

CATS TO CATS

The first impression a new cat makes when she meets your resident cat is critical. If two cats display aggression during their first meeting, this may set the mood for their future relationship. For this reason, it's best to separate your resident cat from your new cat when you first bring her home so that you can control their initial meeting. The two cats should be able to smell and hear—but not see or touch—each other. Each cat should have her own food and water bowl, litter box, scratching post, bed, etc. After 2-3 days, switch the cats' locations so they can investigate each other's smell. This also allows the new cat to explore a different section of your home. After a few more days, play with each of the cats near the door. Encourage them to paw at toys under the door. Eventually the cats may play “paws” under the door with each other. After a week or so, assuming that you see no signs of aggression at the door (no hissing, growling, etc.), you can introduce the cats to each other. One method is to replace the door with a temporary screen door or two baby gates positioned in the door jam so that the cats can see each other. Have one cat and one person on each side of the door, and start the introduction by setting each cat down a few feet away from the screen or gates. When the cats notice each other, say their names and toss treats to them, aiming the treats behind them. Over the next few days, continue to encourage feeding, eating treats and playing near the barrier, gradually offering the cats' meals, treats and toys closer to the screen. The next stage is to permit the cats to spend time together without a barrier between them. Supervise these initial face-to-face interactions carefully. Keep a squirt bottle handy in case the cats begin to fight. As the cats become more familiar with each other, allow them longer and longer periods of time together. If you're bringing a new cat into a household with multiple cats, introduce each resident cat to the newcomer individually. After each of your cats has met the new cat one-on-one, you can start to allow all of the cats to mingle as a group. Your cats will be more likely to get along if they're happy in their environment. Look at the layout of your home. Make sure there are plenty of hiding spots for your cats. Some like to sit up high, on shelves and on kitty condo perches. Frightened cats, on the other hand, tend to hide under and behind things, so make sure you provide spots at floor level as well. Place food, water and litter boxes out in the open so your cats don't feel trapped when they access these resources. Make sure you have a litter box for each cat, plus at least one extra.





Even if the dog is house-trained, or making good progress, they will regress. We do not know how long the adjustment period will take. It really depends on the animal. More importantly, it depends on your ability to maintain structure and routine. Watch your pet for cues. The more opportunity they have to do the right thing, the fewer accidents they will have in your home. We suggest that in the first couple of days/weeks in your home, your new pet be considered a puppy. Use the crate as a way to encourage proper potty habits. Rotation and routine are vitally important.

THIS IS ONE EXAMPLE OF ROTATION & ROUTINE PROCEDURE FOR A DOG IN THE FIRST COUPLE DAYS

Get up in the morning, take the dog from its kennel and go immediately outside. You should physically go with the dog (even if you have a fence), and reward the dog for pottying outside (something really tasty). If your dog has gone potty successfully (typically, only urination, but provide extra time for possible defecation), then he has earned time out of his crate (close doors so access to all areas to your home is limited). This is when you may move forward with getting ready for work; however, if the pet will be unsupervised (i.e. when you are in the shower) we suggest re-kenneling.

After you have fed your dog breakfast, you will take the dog back outside. Reward success! Again, free time until you have to leave the house for work. We suggest that all dogs be crated or confined when you are away from home. This is the safest option from both you and your new pet.

If you work from home, or it is a weekend, a successful potty outside earns the dog 2-3 hours of kennel-free time. Set a timer or alarm. When the time comes, take your pet outside for a potty break. Reward success, and more free time in the house! If the dog didn't go, then it is time for the crate. Depending on the breed (small breeds cannot hold it for more than 6-7 hrs), crate time may vary. Start with an hour confined. Repeat the potty break procedure. Again, if successful = free time; no success = crate time.

This continues at all times when you are home. Make sure you are rewarding all successes promptly, and not correcting mistakes when not done in your view.

During the adjustment period (up to several months), we suggest that your new dog sleep in a closed kennel at night. You may reevaluate this once you know that your dog is potty-trained, and when routines and rules have been well established.

If you have a small breed dog, we suggest a confined area rather than a crate if you are away for 8 hrs or more. In this confined area, you will need to provide a potty pad. You will resume with the crate training when you are home. Be aware, some toy breed dogs never become outdoor potty trained. They all can become potty pad trained. If this is something you cannot be OK with, then perhaps a toy breed is not the right fit for you.





Bringing your foster dog or newly adopted dog home for the first time can be stressful for both you, the new dog, and any pets already living in your home. Take things slowly and try to be as relaxed as possible. Even picking the dog off the ground can be a scary thing for a puppy mill rescue dog. We recommend paying very close attention to the dog's reactions whenever it is necessary to pick up the dog as to avoid it jumping from your arms; keep a firm but gentle hold at all times. Also sit close to the ground when holding the dog whenever it is possible.

CAR SAFETY

Dogs should travel in your car in a crate (best option for small dogs) or strapped in a dog safe seatbelt and should never ride in the front seat of a vehicle. First, car accidents are unpredictable, even if you are a safe driver someone around you may not be. Second, when you open your car door to get your dog out of the car it might jump out of the car and either injure itself or run away. Third, it keeps the dog from distracting you while you are driving.

OUTDOOR SAFETY

Ideally dogs should be transported in and out of buildings, such as during events, either on leash or carried in a crate. We highly recommend crate transporting for any dog small enough to carry as this prevents anything bad from happening (be sure the crate is sturdy and securely latched and carry by the bottom of the crate if necessary). Something as simple as a car door shutting can startle your dog enough to have them leap out of your arms unexpectedly. Keep your dog leashed at all times when not in a securely fenced yard. If your dog is fearful, as many puppy mill dogs are, we recommend keeping them leashed until the dog trusts you, even in a fenced yard. There is nothing more stressful than letting your new dog go in your fenced yard and then it being too scared to let you pick it up to bring it back inside. A leashed dog is much easier to catch even if you let the dog walk around with a leash attached to it without holding the other end. We also recommend keeping a leash attached to your dog in your home until your dog can trust you for the same reason stated above. Using a tie-out can be very scary for a dog that has never even seen a leash. If you do not have a fenced yard, we recommend waiting for your foster dog to completely trust you before placing on a tie-out, and even then, dogs should always be supervised when on a tie-out, especially easily startled dogs like puppy mill rescue dogs.

INDOOR SAFETY

Many puppy mill dogs do not have the experience of how to safely jump down off of beds or furniture. They lack muscle/bone integrity and balance, which causes them not to be able to land safely. We have had several foster dogs break their legs simply from jumping off of a couch. A good rule of thumb is if they can't or don't get up on something by themselves, do not put them up there. Initially your dog might not know what to do with toys but the time may come when they start to explore around your house to find things to chew on as they become more comfortable. Be sure to keep all power cords out of reach, garbage cans should be secured, small clothing like socks and underwear should be kept out of reach, etc. Also be sure to keep them a safe distance from hot objects such as your oven or fire place as they have never been exposed to these things and could unknowingly touch it and get burned.





ESCAPE ARTISTS!

Canines are naturally curious creatures at the best of times – a door opens, and they’re going to want to get to the other side. It’s just common sense to remind family members to be very careful going in and out so that your new mill survivor doesn’t slip past and get outside unsupervised.

However, there is also the possibility of your mill dog suddenly and unexpectedly suffering a panic attack from any of the new, strange, and scary things inside your home, and his instinct will be to flee. He may race directly to his crate or “safe place,” but he also may scoot out any door that is ajar, claw through a window screen, or, in rare, extreme cases, hurl himself through plate glass.

Even if he is in his own secure backyard, the sound of thunder, a firecracker, a car with a loud muffler or stereo, a neighbor child on a skateboard, or something as innocuous as a large bird shadow, can send him into blind, frantic flight. He might go over a fence, under a fence, through a fence, or even disappear under a deck or storage unit when your back is turned. And once he gets there, chances are he’s going to be too scared to come to you, even if he wants to.

Vigilance is the key – get down on dog level and try to see your home and yard from his perspective. Block off obvious escape routes; imaginatively-placed baby gates can add one more level of security inside the home. Outside, be sure to block off any place that your dog can go under a fence, triple-check that the fence is secure all around and the gate latches properly, and remove anything the dog may be able to jump up on to go over the fence. Then, when your mill survivor is outside, SUPERVISE him constantly for the first few weeks (if the dog shows any inclination to seek out escape routes, even longer).

Accidents happen, and dogs do get out of their homes and yards. If your mill survivor becomes lost, don’t panic. He needs you to be calm and methodical about getting him back. Tell anyone you have helping you search also to be calm, call the dog’s name confidently and in a happy voice, and don’t try to approach the dog him/herself.

Studies show that timid dogs do not wander far from their homes. They will seek shelter under bushes, shrubs or porches; so when you are searching for them, look close and look low. Be imaginative. One mill dog escaped her foster home and was found days later within two blocks, holed up in a clump of shrubbery. Her foster mom had probably walked past her a dozen times. She was glimpsed snatching up food that a neighbor left out for her, but she would not allow anyone to approach her, not even her foster mom. This is typical; no matter how much the escapee likes and trusts you, chances are, he will be too afraid to come to you. Sometimes, he’ll allow himself to be drawn out of hiding by a canine friend; sometimes, he’ll come to food or treats. Sometimes, a livetrapp borrowed from a shelter or rescue will be the only way to recapture him. Just remember when trying to convince your escapee to come to you to be calm and confident. He needs you, the pack leader, to project strength and security.

Dogs DO pick up on our emotions, but those animals who haven’t lived with people don’t know how to interpret those emotions. He may think your worry is anger directed at him; by the same token, your calm demeanor might also be contagious. Remember how you had to sit by him and talk to convince him to allow you to touch him? Try it again, only with a trail of treats leading from his hiding place (or as close as you can get without spooking him anymore) to you. When he does come to you, let him know what a good dog he is! Never, NEVER scold him for running away!



POISON SAFETY TIPS

Please follow these guidelines to protect your pet from being exposed.

- Be aware of the plants you have in your home and yard. The ingestion of azalea, oleander, sago palm, or yew plant material by an animal can be fatal. Easter lily, day lily, tiger lily, and some other lily species can cause kidney failure in cats.
- Never allow your pets to have access to the areas in which cleaning agents are being used or stored. Cleaning agents have a variety of properties; some may only cause mild stomach upset, but others can cause severe burns of the tongue, mouth and stomach.
- When using rat, mouse, snail or slug baits, or ant or roach traps, place the products in areas that are inaccessible to your companion animals. Some bait contains sweet smelling inert ingredients, such as jelly, peanut butter or sugar that can attract your pets.
- Never give your pet medication unless you are directed to do so by a veterinarian. Many medications that are safe for humans can be deadly for animals.
- Keep all prescription and over-the-counter drugs out of your pet's reach, preferably in closed cabinets. Pain killers, cold medicines, cancer drugs, antidepressants, vitamins and diet pills are all examples of human medications that can be lethal to animals, even in small doses.
- Many common household items can be hazardous to pets. Mothballs, potpourri oils, coffee grounds, homemade play dough, fabric softener sheets, dishwashing detergent, batteries, cigarettes, alcoholic drinks, pennies, and hand and foot warmers could be dangerous for your pet.
- Automotive products such as gasoline, oil and antifreeze should be stored in areas that are inaccessible to your pets. As little as one teaspoon of antifreeze can be deadly to a cat weighing seven pounds.
- Before buying a flea product for use on your pet, ask your veterinarian for a recommendation.
- Read all of the information on the label before using a product on your pet or in your home. Always follow the directions.
- If a product is for use only on dogs, it should never be used on cats; if a product is for use only on cats, it should never be used on dogs.
- Make sure your pets do not enter areas in which foggers or house sprays have been used for the period of time indicated on the label. Birds are more sensitive to inhalants. Always check with your veterinarian before using any spray product in your home if you own pet birds.
- Make sure your pets do not go on lawns or in gardens treated with fertilizers, herbicides or insecticides until they have dried completely. Always store such products in areas that are inaccessible to your pets.
- If you are uncertain about the usage of any product, ask the manufacturer and/or your veterinarian for instructions.





ASPCA ANIMAL POISON CONTROL CENTER

The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center, an operating division of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) is a unique, emergency hotline providing 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week telephone assistance to veterinarians and pet owners. The Center's hotline veterinarians can quickly answer questions about toxic substances found in our everyday surroundings that can be dangerous to animals. The Center maintains a wide collection of reference materials and computer databases that help provide toxicological information for various species. Veterinary professionals provide around-the-clock, on-site coverage of the Center. The licensed staff members share over one hundred and ten years of combined call center experience and over seventyfive years of combined toxicology, clinical, and diagnostic experience.

The phone number of the Center is 1-888-4-ANI-HELP (1-888-426-4435) and the website is www.aspca.org/apcc.

