



## Welcoming Your Adopted Dog

Congratulations on welcoming a new dog into your life! Orange County Animal Care Services (OCAC) wishes you and your newly adopted dog many happy and healthy years together. To help you start off on the right foot, we have provided this information to ease the transition period for you and your dog.

Adoption is not just the process of selecting your new dog; it continues for the life of the dog- from the ride home, through the first night, meeting friends and neighbors, and learning its unique position within your family. As with all changes, the initial transition period may be confusing for both you and your new dog. Because OCAC wants each adoption to be successful and lasting, we offer you the following information.

Remember that this is just basic information. There are many excellent sources that can provide more in-depth information about specific concerns. Your veterinarian will be an essential resource for routine or emergency medical care and can also provide references for other health and behavior issues. As pet ownership continues in its popularity, more resources are becoming available through bookstores, pet stores, periodicals, and the Internet.

### COMING HOME

The day you bring your adopted dog home may be one of the most exciting experiences of its life. Please keep in mind that sudden changes may be frightening to your new dog, especially if a significant amount of time was spent at OCAC. While OCAC staff provides excellent care for all our animals, the unusual sights, sounds, and smells of shelter life may stress many pets. Your dog may be confused as to what is “normal.”

Adding to this stressful period is the sudden introduction of new people, a new car, a new house, etc. it is your responsibility to cushion this transition. You might be tempted to show off your new dog to neighbors and shower it with new toys. Please note that too much activity or attention may be overwhelming. Your dog may react in fear or confusion. Signs of this uncertainty may include hiding, excessive shyness, and refusal to walk. Other reactions could include excessive jumping, frantic darting around the new surroundings or escape attempts.

Recognize that these initial behaviors stem from the dog’s insecurity. The best approach for reassuring your dog is consistency and patience. Give your dog time to learn about their new environment. Take it slow. You have many years to enjoy your new pet; don’t overdo it for the first few days.

### IDENTIFICATION

In Orange County all dogs over the age of four (4) months are required by law to be licensed and vaccinated against rabies. Residents owning or having custody of any dog must license the dog within fifteen (15) days of acquisition or within fifteen (15) days after the license becomes due. The first and most important step as a new pet owner is providing your dog with proper identification. The confusion of a new home may provoke your dog to escape. Your dog’s best chance to be reunited with you is an ID tag. Please be sure to place the ID on your dog’s collar. The longer you put it off, the longer your dog is at risk.

Your dog has been implanted with a microchip ID. The chip will remain with your pet if tags become lost, damaged or break. The chip can also prove ownership. Dog licensing is available through OCAC.

### DOG-PROOFING

A typical household can present many dangers to a dog’s health. Search your home for anything that your dog could investigate. Please pay attention to:

- Electrical outlets, cords, and wires
- Telephone and cable connections

- Medications
- Plastic bags
- Ashtrays
- Other pet's food, dishes, or toys
- Chemicals: household cleaners, paint, insecticides, etc.
- Wastebaskets/trashcans: invest in containers that close securely
- Knick-knacks/figurines: curious paws can sweep these off shelves and tables
- Food left out on countertops
- Unsecured pantry and cupboard doors
- Reclining or folding furniture
- Holiday decorations
- Window screen: check for looseness
- Children's toys and hardware: small parts can be chewed or ingested
- Plants: many indoor and outdoor plants may be toxic if ingested
- Clothes dryer: dogs enjoy warmth and small space, check before each use
- Toilet seats: keep them down to prevent drinking chemically treated water

## SHOPPING

Your dog will need a few essentials for its new home:

- Six (6) foot leash
- Bedding
- Food
- Food dishes/water bowls
- Doghouse: an outdoor dog needs protection from the elements. If you adopt a puppy, consider its future size
- Pet care books: learn about your new breed, behavioral advice, and general care
- Cleaning supplies
- Grooming supplies
- Toys: quality counts more than quantity
- Collar or harness: measure your dog prior to purchase
- Crate: when used properly, a crate can provide a den-like environment
- Extra identification: have a backup tag ready if the original is lost

## A HOME WITHIN A HOME

It's never too early to start introducing your new dog to the habits you want it to learn. No matter the size of your home, your dog needs certain areas it can call its own.

- **Sleeping:** your dog needs a "bed" area. Choose an area that is away from foot traffic but has a good vantage point. This ensures that your dog will not be underfoot but will still feel a part of the home activities. The bed is also a haven for the dog. Respect your dog's need to relax. Teach both children and adults to "let sleeping dogs lie."
- **Eating:** place the food bowl in a quiet, low-traffic area and feed your dog on a regular schedule. Teach children never to touch or approach a dog while it is eating.
- **Housebreaking:** with patience and consistency, your dog will learn where to relieve itself. During the training process, schedule food and water intake. After a meal or large drink, take your dog out through the same door, repeating the same housebreaking phrase. After your dog relieves itself, praise it. If accidents happen, realize scolding will only be effective if you catch the dog in the act. Otherwise, the dog will not associate the accident with the scolding. Be sure to clean up well; if your dog's sensitive nose detects a previous accident, they may mark it again.

## THE "DOG FILE"

When you adopted your dog from OCAC you received several important documents. Throughout your dog's lifetime, you will compile a collection of medical and other records. Creating a "dog file" ensures that all the important information will be gathered in one easily accessible package. It may also prove invaluable in an emergency. Take a few pictures of your dog to include in the file. If your dog becomes lost, pictures are an important part of the search process.

## CHECKLIST FOR THE FIRST WEEK

- Contact a local veterinarian and schedule your dog's initial exam.
- Locate your local emergency pet hospital and place their contact information in a convenient place.
- Continue to dog-proof your home.
- Inform your neighbors that you now own a dog (extra help if your dog gets lost).
- Gradually introduce your dog to service people (mailman, pool cleaner).
- Continue to learn as much about your new dog as possible using resources such as research books, magazines, and the Internet. Most importantly, observe your dog. The more you watch your dog's behavior, the better you will understand the dog itself.

## INTRODUCTIONS

Introducing your new dog to other dogs and children must be gradual and supervised. Setting your dog loose to introduce itself could result in disaster.

### With Other Dogs

Realize that jealousy or possessiveness may create a conflict. As pack animals, dogs will naturally decide a pecking order among themselves. Maintaining control is essential during this process.

Some dogs will not immediately accept a newcomer as "one of their own." Patience is key. Try to prevent problem rather than trying to solve situations later. Depending on the dog, the process may take several days or weeks.

- Keep both dogs leashed for the initial encounters. Praise any tolerant, friendly, or play behavior. Keep meetings short and gradually increase time and frequency.
- Growling or snapping may occur. At the first sign of serious aggression, separate the animals. Do not reward aggressive behavior.
- Avoid favoritism. Provide equal attention and affection.
- Provide each dog with its own bowl, toys, bed, etc. this reduces the chance of territorial disputes.
- If serious fighting occurs or if the dogs do not accept each other within a transitional period of a few weeks, consult a veterinarian.

### With Children

Safe introductions between children and dogs require education and supervision. Teach children responsible behavior around dogs. The following should be strict rules:

- Never disturb a dog while it is sleeping or eating.
- Treat dogs gently and kindly.
- Never hit or strike a dog.
- Never pull a dog's tail, ears, or hair. Dogs can be easily hurt and do feel pain.
- Speak softly, do not shriek, or scream at a dog.
- Respect a dog's need for peace and quiet.

## WHAT IF YOUR DOG BECOMES LOST?

Do not rely on your dog finding its way back home; it may not have time to realize where "home" is. As many dangers exist in the outside world, conduct an immediate, thorough, and persistent search.

- Check with neighbors and service people. Do not overlook the neighborhood children- sometimes they have important information.
- Visit OCAC. Physically check all dog holding areas and inquire at the kennel office (impounded injured dogs may be off-site at a veterinarian, but a record of impounds are kept.)
- Search for your dog online at [www.ocpetinfo.com](http://www.ocpetinfo.com).
- Post flyers that include a picture throughout your neighborhood. If allowed post notices with local veterinarians and pet stores. Be sure to verify with your city that it is ok to post flyers.
- Check other local animal shelters. Sometimes lost dogs travel further than expected.
- Contact the Animal Assistance League Hotline at (714) 891-PETS. You can leave a report of your lost dog, check their records, and post a lost notification.

- Continue to check shelters daily. Some well-meaning citizens keep lost dogs for a few days before turning them in.
- Scan the “found” sections of local papers. Remember, your dog can be described in many ways.
- Place a “lost” ad in a local newspaper. Describe your dog in simple terms (smoke: gray) and include distinguishing marks.
- Do not give up- dogs have been recovered months after being lost!

#### WHAT IF THE DOG IS NOT WORKING OUT?

If you are experiencing problems with your new dog, re-examine your expectations. Realize that your dog may have developed bad habits prior to arriving at ACS. It will take time and patience to develop new habits and adapt to a new environment.

Also remember that inappropriate behavior may result from the stress of transition. Some dogs will settle down after they realize that your home is their home. This may take days, weeks, or months, depending on the dog and its history. Be sure that you give your new dog many chances to learn before you consider giving up on it.

#### A FINAL NOTE

OCAC wishes you and your dog a happy, healthy life together. We know from experience that “shelter dogs” often prove to be some of the greatest pets we know. If you and your dog become one of the many success stories, let OCAC know and be sure to encourage others to welcome an adopted pet into their family.



Alteration After-Care for Dogs  
Animal Care Services

**All dogs adopted from the Animal Care Center have been spayed or neutered before leaving for their new homes. Although these are routine surgeries, they are still considered major surgery. Because of this, your pet needs special attention. Be sure to follow ALL directions below. If you have any questions, please call the Animal Care Center Clinic at 714-935-6848 (Monday-Sunday 8:00 a.m.-5:00p.m.).**

General Post Surgery Instructions:

- **Your dog may seem sleepy or less active. This is probably a lingering effect of the anesthesia, which wears off at different times for each animal. Confine your dog to a small indoor room. Keep it warm and comfortable. Do not let it rest on cold, hard floors. Provide a blanket to prevent chills.**
- **Your dog needs rest and quiet. No running, rough play, or other major activity.**
- **Your dog's strength should start returning the day after surgery. Expect normal behavior within 48 hours of the surgery. If you do not feel your pet is acting normally by 48 hours after the surgery, please see your veterinarian.**
- **Continue to restrict activity for 2 weeks after surgery.**

Food and Water

- **Feed your dog small amounts of food frequently to avoid it from gorging.**
- **Your dog may not have a normal appetite until 48 hours after surgery.**

Sutures (Stitches)

- **The surgeon usually closes the incision with sutures places under the skin that do not need to be removed. This reduces irritation to the skin and annoyance to your pet.**
- **Occasionally surgical staples will need to be placed. Please check your pet's belly to see if there are any staples. If so, they will need to be removed in 10-14 days. This can be done at your regular veterinarian's hospital or you can contact OC Animal Care at 714-935-6848 to set up a time to have staples removed.**
- **A female dog can be spayed while she is in heat. After the surgery, she cannot get pregnant. However, the hormones have not disappeared from her body, so she can still attract males for up to 2 weeks.**
- **An accidental mating can cause serious, even life-threatening injury to a female dog.**
- **Keep your dog strictly confined indoors and away from dogs of the opposite gender for 2 weeks.**

**\*\*Reminder- You receive a free health examination from veterinarians who are a member of the Southern California Medical Association (SCVMA). For more information, please review your adoption packet.**

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is a spay/neuter?

**A spay refers to removing the uterus and ovaries. This procedure stops the heat cycles and prevents female dogs from becoming pregnant. A neuter is the surgical removal of the testicles (castration). If your pet is a female, it has been identified as being spayed by using a drop of tattoo ink at the incision site. This helps veterinarians to know that your dog has been spayed.**

Why Sterilize?

Millions of dogs and cats are killed every year due to pet overpopulation. Many of the unwanted animals are the direct result of unplanned, unwanted breeding. Altered animals live longer, healthier lives. These surgeries prevent certain cancers, infections, and other illnesses. Altering often leads to positive changes in pets. Pets are generally calmer, less aggressive, and tend to roam less, so they are less likely to get hit by cars, in fights, eaten/injured from coyotes, etc.

When to Sterilize?

Dogs can be sterilized as young as 6 weeks. The younger a dog is sterilized the better chance it has of avoiding diseases and negative behaviors. Dogs that are ill should not undergo the stress of surgery, as this can make the illness worse.

There is a swelling at the incision site. Should I be concerned?

Some swelling is normal and should be expected. If it becomes excessive, oozes, feels hot to the touch, or is acting ill (decreased activity and/ or appetite), please consult your veterinarian or you can contact OC Animal Care at 714-935-6848.

My dog keeps licking at the incision site. Is this a problem?

Constant licking can irritate the area and cause a delayed healing of the site or the incision to open. Ask your veterinarian about a special collar that will prevent your dog from licking and allow the incision to heal.

There is a little blood at the incision site. Is this normal?

A small amount of blood is normal for the first night after the surgery. However, consult your veterinarian if the bleeding is excessive or does not stop by the following day.

When can I give my dog a bath?

Wait at least one week, then use a very mild puppy shampoo, and be careful and gentle.

Emergencies

If you believe your dog is in serious danger, please take him/her to your local veterinarian immediately. Emergency situations include accidental mating, opening at the incision site, heavy bleeding, loss of consciousness, extreme inactivity, or other indications of shock.

If you have a concern during business hours, please contact our veterinary staff at (714) 935-6848.

Please remember that any expenses incurred after adoption are YOUR responsibility. Please call us and let us know if you need emergency services.

After-Hours Emergency Veterinary Hospitals:

Orange County Emergency Pet Clinic 1471 S. Harbor Boulevard Fullerton, CA 92835 (714)441-2925	Animal Urgent Care of South Orange County 28025 Hillcrest Mission Viejo, CA 92692 (949)364-6228
Orange County Emergency Pet Clinic 12750 Garden Grove Boulevard Garden Grove, CA 92843 (714)537-3032	All-Care Referral Center 18449 Amistad Street Fountain Valley, CA 92708 (714)774-6200



## **Canine Influenza**

Canine influenza has been diagnosed in Orange County. There are two strains of canine influenza, H3N8 and H3N2. H3N2 was previously a strain found only in Korea and China, but this strain has been diagnosed in Orange County in March of 2015. An outbreak of H3N2, a strain previously limited to Korea and China, occurred in Chicago earlier this year. In April of 2015, the first case was diagnosed in Orange County (Laguna Niguel).

The signs of canine influenza are very similar to other upper respiratory diseases such as “kennel cough” in which mild to moderate coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge, and ocular discharge are noted. Some dogs may have more severe signs such as lethargy, loss of appetite, fever, and pneumonia. Most dogs demonstrate the mild form of canine influenza with a cough that persists for 10-21 days despite treatment.

The incubation period is usually 2-4 days from exposure to the onset of symptoms. Dogs are the most contagious during this 2–4-day incubation period, even though they show no symptoms at this time. All dogs are susceptible to this strain of canine influenza as it is novel to our area, thus there is no immune protection to be passed on from dam to puppies, nor is there a vaccine to prevent infection of H3N2. While all dogs exposed to the virus will likely become infected, approximately 80% will demonstrate symptoms and 20% will be asymptomatic, but still shed the virus.

Infection with Canine Influenza is via spread of aerosolized respiratory secretions and contaminated objects. The virus can remain alive in the environment for up to 48 hours, on clothing for 24 hours and on hands for 12 hours. Dogs that are taken to dog parks, boarding facilities, and shelters are most at risk of becoming infected with Canine Influenza.

Great care is taken to employ proper sanitation practices and avoid transmission of contagious diseases at OC Animal Care. However, we recognize that our facility houses many dogs with unknown history and that dogs demonstrate no symptoms of H3N2 during the time when they are most contagious.

## CANINE INFECTIOUS RESPIRATORY DISEASE COMPLEX (KENNEL COUGH)

What is "Kennel Cough" and what are the signs?

Like common colds in humans, Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease Complex (Kennel Cough) is a very common disease caused by bacteria and/or viruses that spread among dogs in a shelter or kennel. Signs include a hacking cough, discharge from the eyes and nose, lethargy, and/or loss of appetite.

Is kennel cough contagious?

Kennel cough is contagious to other dogs. It is a good idea to isolate dogs that are showing signs of the disease, and wash hands after handling sick dogs. Vaccinated, healthy dogs in a home usually develop mild, if any, signs of kennel cough after exposure to a new dog; however, in some cases, serious illness may be transmitted. All dogs at OC Animal Care are vaccinated at the time of impound. Rarely, an immuno-compromised person (with AIDS or undergoing cancer chemotherapy) could be infected with *Bordetella bronchiectasis*, one of the bacteria involved in some cases of kennel cough. If someone in the family is severely immuno-compromised, please discuss kennel cough with your physician.

How is kennel cough treated?

Kennel cough is manageable at home. The best thing to do for a dog with kennel cough is to provide them with a warm, stress-free home. In this environment, most dogs will recover within a few weeks. Sometimes antibiotics are used in treating kennel cough and may help the dog recover. Severe untreated cases of kennel cough can develop into pneumonia. It is important to consult a veterinarian if your dog is showing signs of the disease.

When should you contact your veterinarian?

- We recommend that all newly adopted dogs be seen by your family veterinarian within three days of adoption for a routine health check
- If any of your dogs develop any signs of kennel cough, consult your veterinarian.

\*\*\*If your dog develops signs of kennel cough within the first seven days of adoption, please contact OC Animal Care at (714) 935-6848 Monday - Sunday 8am-5pm. If you have questions after hours, contact your local emergency clinic. All financial expense incurred after adoption are the sole responsibility of the new pet owner. \*\*\*





## TICKS



Ticks are tiny parasites that attach to the skin of people and animals to feed on blood. They live in dense high vegetation, gardens, yards, parks, and kennels, and attach to people and pets as they pass by. Ticks can be a problem year-round but may be especially problematic in the summer.

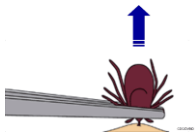
Ticks can cause local irritation and infection but also can transmit potentially dangerous diseases to people and pets. Control and prevention of ticks is extremely important in reducing the risk of disease associated with ticks. This includes removing the tick as soon as possible.

OC Animal Care has protocols in place to address the control of fleas and ticks. As peak tick season approaches with the start of spring/summer, environmental treatment is initiated at the shelter. In addition, during the season, all dogs are treated with a topical flea and tick control product at adoption or when fleas or ticks are found on the dog.

No tick control method is 100% effective. Ticks are extremely resistant to most pesticides and are very adept at hiding in inaccessible areas such as in cracks, crevices, and underbrush. If you notice a tick on your adopted dog, please consult with your veterinarian for appropriate treatment and control measures.

### TICK REMOVAL

- Use a pair of tweezers or special tick removal instrument to remove an attached tick. This is important because you do not want to crush
- the tick and force harmful bacteria to leave the tick and enter the bloodstream. Do not touch the tick since diseases can be transmitted. Consider wearing gloves when removing a tick.
- With a tweezers, grab the tick as close to the head as possible. Do not grasp the tick by the body. Without jerking, pull firmly and steadily directly outward. Do not twist as you are pulling. Frequently, pieces of skin may come off with the tick.
- If the head of the tick remains in the skin, try to grab it and remove as much as possible. It is not life threatening if you are unable to remove the entire head. Your pet's immune system will try to dislodge the head and may create a site of infection. If you are concerned, contact your family veterinarian.
- After removing the tick, place it in a jar of alcohol to kill it. Flushing ticks down the toilet will not kill them.
- Clean the bite with a disinfectant.
- Wash your hands thoroughly.
- **WRONG WAY TO REMOVE TICKS** – Do not use your fingers. The contents of the tick can transmit disease.
- Once a tick is removed, it is common for a welt and skin reaction to occur, it may take a week or more for it to completely heal. The skin irritation is due to the irritating and destructive tick saliva. Do not be worried about the tick head staying in; it rarely happens. The swelling is due to toxic saliva, not toxic heads.



## PREVENTION

- Topical tick control for pets – Ask your veterinarian about the best product for your pet.
- Examine pets for ticks.
- Remove ticks immediately.
- Keep grass and bushes trim and remove mulch and leaf litter.
- Avoid tall grass or brush when walking or hiking.
- If you have a tick infestation, the environment will need to be treated, including the house, yard, your pet's bedding, as well as your pet. See your veterinarian or exterminator for safe and effective treatment options.

**CAUTION: SOME FLEA AND TICK CONTROL PRODUCTS FOR DOGS CAN BE DEADLY TO CATS!! ONLY USE A PRODUCT LABELED FOR THE SIZE & TYPE OF ANIMAL THAT YOU ARE TREATING! ALWAYS ASK YOUR VETERINARIAN BEFORE USING ANY MEDICATION!**



## Vaccine and Parasite Treatment Information

Thank you for adopting or redeeming your cat or dog from the Orange County Animal Care Center. Our staff has cared for and provided any necessary medical treatment for your pet. This letter will provide you and your veterinarian with an understanding of the vaccinations and flea/tick control preparations that your pet has received.

**DOGS** have been vaccinated against the following diseases:

- \* Distemper
- \* Hepatitis
- \* Parvovirus
- \* Parainfluenza
- \* Bordetella
- \* Rabies- when 3 months or older

**CATS** have been vaccinated against the following diseases:

- \* Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis
- \* Calici Virus
- \* Panleukopenia
- \* Rabies- when 3 months or older

Dogs and cats have been treated with Advantage for external parasite control and Drontal Plus/Drontal for internal parasite control. Advantage is applied topically for flea control in dogs or cats that are at least 8 weeks old. Drontal Plus is administered orally to deworm dogs weighing at least 2.0 lbs. Drontal is administered orally to deworm cats weighing at least 1.5 lbs. Dogs observed with ticks and are at least 7 weeks of age are treated with Advantix for tick control. Advantix is never to be used on cats. Please do not bathe or allow your pet to be immersed in water for at least 48 hours. Fleas or ticks should die within 48 hours following topical application. It is recommended to re-treat your pet monthly with a flea and/or tick preventative.

If you adopted an animal from OC Animal Care, please remember to use your free veterinary exam by an outside SCVMA veterinarian to help provide you with information based on your individual pets' needs for further vaccine and parasite control.

- \* **All dogs and female cats adopted from and spayed at the Orange County Animal Care Center are tattooed at the incision site. A small drop of tattoo ink is applied to the incision and leaves behind a faint blue or black line indicating that this animal has been altered. Should your pet ever return to a shelter or be transferred to a new home, tattooing alerts shelters, rescue groups and other veterinarians to the fact that sterilization has already been performed thereby eliminating the possibility of this animal undergoing anesthesia needlessly.**