

## Basic Dog Care for DRN Adopters

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## Introduction

Thank you very much for adopting a rescued dog! By adopting a dog in need of a new home, you are saving the life of homeless dog. Your dog may have found himself in the pound because he was an unclaimed stray or because he was surrendered. It is worth remembering that most dogs are surrendered to pounds, not because they are bad dogs, but because their family's circumstances change. They may be moving overseas, or into an apartment or nursing home, they become ill or injured, or they simply can't be bothered looking after an animal anymore. There is nothing wrong with the dog.

Your dog has learned a lot in foster care, and with your time, love and understanding, he will continue to improve. Since he is a social animal and eager to please, he can learn more if you teach him, regardless of his age.

As with any new dog, you have to expect that there will be a settling-in period. During these early weeks, sometimes months, he may be anxious and show it by trying to escape, barking, urinating indoors, or eating less. Please be sure your yard is escape proof and you don't allow him off the lead. Ideally, we suggest you leave your new dog indoors when you need to go out during the settling in period to ensure he doesn't escape from your yard.

If you can be patient and gentle for at least the first 2 or 3 weeks, he will soon feel comfortable and settled in his new home and his true personality will emerge. Please give him a fair chance and you will grow to love him and he will grow to trust and love you and he will be your lifelong friend.

### Two Week Trial

All our dogs start out on a two week trial. The trial period begins on the day that the dog is taken home. After the trial period ends, if we don't hear from you we assume you want to proceed with the adoption and we file the change of ownership paperwork with council. You do not become the legal owner of the animal until the completion of the trial period and the change of ownership document is lodged at council.

### Dog Returns and Refunds of Adoption Fees

If you decide before the end of the trial period that you don't want to keep the dog you must return it to the original foster carer or another representative chosen by DRN, before the end of the trial period. Transport is at your expense. DRN is not responsible for picking up the animal.

In addition, if DRN learns that the animal is not being well treated or any other reason, we can take the dog back. Please read all the details in our Adoption Agreement.

If a puppy that was less than 4 months old when adopted is returned within the trial period, then the Adoption Fee is refunded less the deposit, or half of the Adoption Fee, whichever is greater. So you forfeit half of the Adoption Fee whether or not you paid a deposit on a young puppy.

If a dog or puppy that was 4 months or older when adopted is returned within the trial period, then the Adoption Fee is refunded less \$50, or any deposit paid, whichever is greater. So if you paid a deposit, you forfeit the deposit. If you didn't pay a deposit then you only forfeit \$50.

This will reimburse us for all the time and trouble of doing the interview, yard check, paperwork, having the dog unavailable during the trial period, finding a new foster carer, and a new adoption for the dog. We also hope it will ensure that people are truly committed to a dog before adopting.

If a dog or puppy is returned after the trial period no refund is given, but we will always take the dog back. Our Adoption Agreement requires you contact us before rehoming the dog.

Our "Deposits, Refunds and Trial Period" policy can also be found on our website <http://www.dogrescuenewcastle.com.au/refunds.html>

### Your Adoption Pack

You will have received an Adoption Pack with your new dog. It contains a wealth of vital information about caring for your dog, such as your signed Adoption Contract, veterinary care requirements and information, dog training information, legal requirements, dog and child safety, and much more. Please take the time to look at each document and keep the Adoption Pack handy for future reference. At least read the one page "Dog Care Basics". You may also find it useful to store your dog's veterinary and vaccination records in the Adoption Pack folder.

If you decide to return your dog to Dog Rescue Newcastle, or you give him to another owner, please always send his Adoption Pack with him. Thank you.

## Microchip, Registration and ID Tag

All dogs are required by law to be microchipped and Lifetime Registered by 6 months old. All DRN dogs are microchipped and registered. Your adoption fee includes microchipping and registration with the NSW Companion Animals Register. If you adopted an adult dog your donation also includes council registration. However, if you adopted an undesexed puppy or if you live outside of New South Wales then council registration is your responsibility, the cost is not included in your adoption fee (see details in "Desexing" section).

Your dog's microchip details will be changed to your contact details after the end of the two week trial and confirmation will be mailed to you about 2 weeks later.

If you move house or change your phone number, email address, or other contact details, it is very important that you update the NSW Companion Animals Register with your new details so that if your dog gets lost, you can be contacted. This is not done automatically. You must remember to do it yourself. Contact your local council to do this, there is no charge. If you move out of NSW please check with your local council for its requirements.

### ID Tag

Almost every dog manages to get out of his yard or off his lead at some point in his life. (Tip: use a harness instead of a collar when walking to prevent him slipping out of his collar). If this happens to your dog, the easiest way for the person who finds him to contact you is if your dog is wearing an identification tag on his collar. Remember, your neighbours cannot read a microchip! It is a legal requirement that your dog wear an ID tag with your contact details at all times when outside your property. For safety sake, just keep the collar and tag on 24 x 7 because you can never know when your dog might go missing. You must keep our Dog Rescue Newcastle ID tag on your dog at all times during the trial period. You should add your own ID tag as soon as possible. After the trial period you can remove the DRN ID tag if you have your own ID tag or leave it on as a backup.

The tag should contain your phone number (preferably two: a landline and a mobile, one of which should be able to record a message) and your street address and suburb. Here's the link to get a [free](https://www.petregister.com.au/tags) ID tag for your pet <https://www.petregister.com.au/tags> . Without an ID tag, a person finding your dog has to go to a lot of trouble to take the dog to a vet or pound to get the microchip read. Out of business hours this is nearly impossible. Many people won't bother doing this. They may decide that your dog is a stray and just keep it. If they surrender your dog to a pound or RSPCA because they can't contact you directly, then you will have to pay a fine in order to get your dog back. So, save yourself a lot of worry and make sure your dog wears a collar with an ID tag on it *at all times*. You never know when it will be needed.

## Veterinary Care

### Desexing

All adult dogs we rehome have already been desexed. If you adopted a puppy who was too young to be desexed, then your adoption fee covers his or her desexing at one of our preferred vets. Contact us to find out the locations of our approved vets. It is a condition of your Adoption Agreement that you have your puppy desexed **before he or she turns 5 months old**. You can use another vet if you choose but it will be at your own expense.

If your puppy was not desexed before you adopted him then registration is your responsibility to do and pay for. After your puppy is desexed, or no later than 6 months, whichever comes first, you must contact your local council and register your dog with them. We could not do it before your puppy was desexed because it costs so much more to register an undesexed animal. (Note that desexed dogs are already registered).

### Vaccinations

Puppies need to be vaccinated at 8 weeks, 12 weeks, and 16 weeks old. After that, all dogs need to be vaccinated every year. Annual vaccination is vital to prevent Parvo virus and other dangerous *and fatal* diseases.

Your puppy or dog has received at least one vaccination. His vaccination certificate will show the date. Mark the date on your calendar so you can have your dog vaccinated again every year in the same month as shown on his vaccination certificate. This is also a good opportunity for your vet to examine him to make sure he is healthy and for you to bring up any concerns you may have.

If you adopted a puppy who is younger than 12 weeks old, your adoption fee includes the 12 week (second) vaccination. But we only pay for it if you take him to one of our approved vets. Your puppy may be vaccinated by a veterinary nurse and *does not get an examination or consultation by a vet*. If you want a veterinary consultation they'll need to pay the vet's usual fee. You are responsible for the 16 week (third) vaccination.

### Intestinal Worms

Once your puppy is weaned it is important that you begin treatment for intestinal worm. He needs to be treated every 2 weeks until he is 12 weeks old, then once a month until 6 months old, then *once every 3 months for life*. You can use Milbamax worming tablet or a similar product

such as Drontal which can be bought from pet shops or supermarkets. There are also products which are used monthly. Please talk to your vet for advice.

### Heartworm

Heartworm is a potentially fatal parasite transmitted by mosquitoes. There are two forms of heartworm protection: monthly tablet or annual vaccination.

The annual vaccination is more convenient than remembering to give a monthly tablet, but your dog must be at least one year old. In the past, a blood test needed to be done before the injection to detect existing infestation, but not now. The injection can now be given without the test, but follow your vet's advice about this.

The blood test for heartworm tests for the presence of heartworm, but only detects them after they've reached a certain age, so can miss very young ones. To be absolutely sure, the test needs to be done once, and then again in 6 months.

Instead of the annual vaccination you can choose to give a monthly chew or tablet such as HeartGuard or Sentinel. You can buy these at a vet, pet store or online at [www.pricelesspets.com.au](http://www.pricelesspets.com.au)

Please talk to your vet for advice about heartworm prevention.

### Kennel Cough

Kennel Cough is a common virus transmitted from dog to dog. It is similar to a human flu. Its symptoms are coughing and/or sneezing. It is usually not fatal but can make your feel unwell. Most of the dogs we rescue from pounds come out with kennel cough. We give them treatment and it usually clears up within two weeks. If your dog was very recently rescued from the pound and is still coughing after two weeks, please contact us for advice.

Kennel Cough can be prevented with annual vaccination administered by your vet. Please ask your vet about kennel cough prevention at your next visit.

### Ticks

There are many ticks around and they can be fatal. Signs your dog may have a tick are vomiting, weakness in the back legs, a change in the voice or bark, panting, loud breathing, even grunting noises.

To reduce the risk of your dog getting a tick, use a tick prevention treatment. Tick collars are inexpensive and work well for 6 to 8 weeks but remember to remove them before your dog swims or has a bath. You can also use Advantix applied to the skin between the shoulder blades every 2 weeks. Frontline spray can be used every 2 to 3 weeks. We've found that one of the cheapest sources for all flea and tick products is Priceless Pets online [www.pricelesspets.com.au](http://www.pricelesspets.com.au).

However, none of the preventative products are a substitute for checking your dog's fur daily, especially after he or she has been outside in the long grass. Most ticks are found around the head and shoulders but check all over, including between the toes around the base of the tail, in the ears and under the collar.

If you find a tick, contact your vet for advice straight away. We recommend using a tick hook, like the green one shown at right, to remove it. They're cheap to buy so you should keep one on hand. After removing one tick, be sure to search for more. You should keep an eye on your dog for the next two to four days, keeping him cool and calm while avoiding excitement and exercise.



### Fleas

Fleas are more than a nuisance; they can cause serious health problems such as skin infections and anemia which can kill a dog. If your dog has pale gums he already has anemia so you must solve your flea problem immediately.

You should protect your dog with a monthly flea treatment. **Comfortis** is a monthly tablet which controls fleas extremely well. Although Comfortis does NOT provide tick protection it is the most effective product against fleas and you can combine it with a tick collar for full protection. Comfortis is particularly good for dogs with sensitive skin who may have a bad reaction to the spot on products. Comfortis must be given with food. Consult your vet before giving Comfortis if your dog is on any other medication. Another good product is **Advantix** which is a liquid drop applied to the skin.

I am not a vet but my advice when giving your dog any flea treatment which they haven't had before is to give them 1/2 the recommended dose, wait 12 hours for any adverse reaction then if no bad reaction give the remaining dose.

Sometimes a dog needs a fast acting flea treatment to take care of one or more fleas. **Capstar** is a tablet which you can buy from the supermarket, vets or pet shops which will kill any active, adult fleas. It is no substitute for the monthly treatments however because it doesn't interrupt the flea breeding cycle. Your dog shouldn't need Capstar if you keep up the monthly treatment year round. You can also use a flea shampoo such as "Fido Flea Shampoo" for immediate results. But flea shampoo can irritate your dog's skin so it should never be used more than once a month and is no substitute for the monthly products. In most cases the monthly skin drops or tablets will control fleas. You can also ask your vet about monthly Sentinel or other multitreatment tablets.

Frontline Plus spray or Fleatrol spray can be used on bedding and your dog's environment. If your garden or home is infested with fleas you should ring a pest controller for professional flea treatment of your environment indoors and outdoors.

If you're sure your dog and environment don't have fleas, but your dog has irritated skin then your dog may have an allergy. Refer to the "Prevention and Treatment of Skin Problems" section and please consult your vet if problems persist. Don't let your poor dog suffer with fleas.

Flea treatments can be purchased from vets and pet shops or shop online such as at [www.pricelesspets.com.au](http://www.pricelesspets.com.au).



## Caring For Your Dog

### Water

Sorry to state the obvious but...please ensure your dog has access to fresh, clean water at all times. Provide a bowl inside your home and outside and refresh the water daily. This is especially important during hot weather. For large dogs, a galvanized bucket from hardware stores makes a great water bowl for use outside. Place the water bowl or bucket in the shade, and in a corner or a place where it won't get kicked over. You might need to provide two bowls or buckets in hot weather and to ensure there is always one in the shade.

Pet stores sell a water dispenser (Le Bistro is one brand), which features an upside-down water bottle which holds from 1.25 liters of water which automatically fills a bowl. These are very handy for outside use, especially if you tend to forget to check the water daily. You need only refill these dispensers every 3 to 5 days depending on the size of the bottle and the size of your dog. Place it in a corner so it can't easily be knocked over.

### Feeding

Puppies under 5 months old need 3 meals a day. We recommend you give your adult dog two meals a day: breakfast and dinner. *Don't feed only dry biscuit food.* Dry biscuit food, if used, should only be of premium quality, Australian made, and should make up no more than 50% of your dog's diet. Try to provide a balanced diet which includes cooked or raw meat, a small amount of carbohydrate such as cooked brown rice or dry dog food, plus vegetables. Vegetables are a healthy addition of fibre and vitamins to a dog's diet. Just cook a few extra veg with you dinner and give it to your dog with his next meal. You can mash them if he doesn't eat them when visible. Frozen and tinned veg are fine too. Fruit is also good for your dog as long as you don't give them the seeds, stems, or leaves. The pits from stoned fruit are poisonous.

It's also highly recommended you give your dog a **raw** meaty bone at least once a week. Never feed cooked bones, ham bones, t-bones, or chop bones. Raw chicken necks and wings are good as long as your dog chews them and doesn't just swallow them. Limit these to a couple of times a week. Lamb brisket bones are best. The larger beef, pork or lamb bones are good for large dogs but be careful as small dogs can break their teeth on them. Make sure there is not a lot of fat on the bones. Not only are bones a lot of fun, but they are great for his teeth. *Never feed cooked bones* of any sort, as these can easily splinter and cause choking, intestinal damage and even death! Try to keep an eye on your dog when you give him a bone and remove the bone when it starts to get small enough to swallow.

Don't leave uneaten food in his bowl. Any food which he hasn't eaten within 20 minutes should be discarded. It can attract vermin and go off. It is especially bad to leave dry food available at all times. It is better for your dog to understand that you are in control of the food supply at all times and that he is dependent on you for it because it is not constantly available. It also helps with house training if he is eating only at regular meal times.

CAUTION: Never feed the following foods because they are poisonous to dogs:

- onions

- chocolate
- grapes
- raisins and sultanas
- macadamia nuts
- avocado
- pits from stone fruit such as apricots, peaches and plums
- alcohol
- caffeine (coffee, tea, cola, chocolate)
- fat from meat, cooked or raw, such as the fat trimmed off steak (one large serving can be fatal)
- raw potato
- raw fish
- raw eggs (not poisonous but can cause skin problems)
- corn cobs (can cause intestinal blockage)
- human medications especially ibuprofen and acetaminophen
- Never give your dog *cooked* bones because they splinter. Raw bones are great though.

Avoid giving your dog cheap food or dog treats from the Reject Shop, or similar "dollar" stores, or any dog treat or food made in Asia. There have been cases in the news recently about dogs dying after eating food and treats from China where food safety and standards are very poor. Pet food imported from USA and Canada is irradiated and loses nutrients. Stick with premium quality *Australian made* pet food and treats sold at your vet or a pet shop.

### **Inside or Outside?**

Your dog needs to spend at least a couple of hours every day inside with you. No dog should be left outside all the time. Dogs are social animals and need to be with you and your family, their social group, to be happy and well adjusted. It is unkind to keep a dog outside all the time. They get lonely, depressed, and sometimes aggressive. If you train your dog to stay in his bed indoors it shouldn't be any problem to have him inside when people are home.

Your dog should have a view out to the street or laneway from the backyard, if he is going to be spending a lot of time out there. It is very boring for your dog to spend all day in a fully colourbond enclosed yard with no view to the outside world. Consider cutting a window in the fence or gate, or building a platform so he can see over, so your dog can see what's going on and to help alleviate his boredom. The exception would be for any dog which would get overly aroused and bark at street activity.

### **Boredom**

Probably the most common problem most dogs have is boredom. Dogs, especially young dogs, need plenty of exercise and mental stimulation. Since you can't be with your dog 24 x 7 you should ensure he's happy when you're not home. The best thing to do is take your dog for a big walk or run before you leave so he's more likely to sleep while you're out. At minimum, spend time with him throwing a ball around the yard.

Always provide toys for your dog. The pet shops are full of them and you'll soon find the style which your dog loves most. Every dog should have a couple of different food or treat dispensing toys. Get a "Kong" toy and a treat dispensing ball to fill with food to keep your dog occupied for some time. Op shops and discount shops such as The Reject Shop are also a great source of dog toys.

Big, *raw*, meaty bones are also a great way to amuse your pet.

Training your dog to do tricks is a good way to work his brain cells and to bond with him.

Most importantly, don't forget to walk, jog or run with your furry friend at least once or twice a day, and you'll have a happy, well-behaved pet.

### **Backyard Fun for Your Dog!**

The principles outlined in this handout are intended as a general guide only. If your dog has shown aggressive behaviour toward you, your family or other people, you should ask your vet to recommend a dog behaviour specialist. This Backyard Fun section was written by Trudi Waller of Clever Paw's Dog Training Services, Goolwa Veterinary Centre, SA.

### ***Environmental Enrichment***

With our busy lifestyles, many dogs can spend hours each day left to their own devices, sometimes leading to social and behavioural problems. As we learn more about animals it is increasingly apparent that mental health is of enormous importance to their wellbeing and lifestyle. The following is a list of suggestions to provide

Environmental Enrichment for those times when your dog (lets call him 'Deefer') is left home alone. As dogs are social animals it is vitally important that you spend quality time with Deefer each day, so these ideas should be used in addition to your normal family interaction and an exercise regime appropriate for Deefer. You should take great care to ensure that there is no danger to Deefer or others in any of these activities.

### ***Toys and More Toys***

There are many great toys on the market that are designed to keep Deefer occupied: individual dogs will have different preferences. Deefer will very quickly get bored with the same old toy so put out a few at a time and ROTATE them daily.

### ***Tour Guide***

Take Deefer for a ride in the car when making those short trips such as dropping the kids off at school or going to the post office. It offers him a change of scenery. Even better if you stoop at the park on the way home and give Deefer a quick run. NB. Remember the dangers of leaving dogs in hot cars.

### ***Ice Blocks***

Place some suitable scraps of food (raw carrot, cooked rice, pigs ear, raw bones, chicken necks etc) into an ice cream container or kong, fill with water (or chicken or beef stock) and freeze. You could even freeze a knotted rope into it so it could be hung somewhere or maybe bury it – as the ice melts the interest is renewed as treats come to the surface. Try making ice blocks with chicken stock – a cool idea for the hot weather!

### ***Window or Viewing Platform***

There are some dogs in this world, as with some people, who just love to know what's going on. If Deefer is one of these help him out by placing peepholes in the fence or providing a raised viewing platform. If he is highly excited by movement this may not be an appropriate activity.

### ***A Wading Pool***

Some dogs adore water so why not encourage it. You can purchase shallow moulded plastic children's pools (Clams) quite cheaply or alternatively make your own pond. Ensure that Deefer can easily get out of the pond and that it is just paddling depth, then drop some toys or treats, even vegetables such as carrot pieces or whole apples which will float and encourage him to play. An alternative would be to drop the same floating goodies or toys in Deefer's water bucket.

### ***The Kong & The Everlasting Treat Ball***

You may be familiar with these marvelous pieces of equipment available from good pet product suppliers which can be stuffed with food and left for Deefer to work on during the day. (Great for when you have to go to work, helps your dog to be keen for you to go to work instead of getting all worked up) Be aware with multiple dogs that using food games may cause some problems. Also, if your dog tends to scoff his dry food at dinner time, putting it in a Kong or Treat Ball can extend dinner time and create lots of fun for your friend. It is designed for Deefer to roll the ball around to get the food out. Some dogs take all day and some take five minutes! You can smear peanut butter or cheese near the opening to encourage them to start with.

### ***Recycle Plastic Bottles***

Be sure to remove the bottle top and the plastic ring for Deefer's safety. Punch some holes in the sides of the bottle, large enough for pieces of dry food to fall through. Fill the empty bottle with dry food for hours of fun.

### ***Swinging Tyre***

Hanging an old tyre from a tree can be a great way to entertain a boisterous dog. Place toys or treats in the tyre to ensure Deefer is interested and gets some reward for the game. Make sure that the anchor point can take Deefer's weight as well as the abuse and also that Deefer cannot get caught up in it and become injured. Check out [www.aussiedog.com.au](http://www.aussiedog.com.au) for the 'Home Alone', a robust interactive dog toy.

### ***Recycled Rubbish***

Empty milk cartons, cardboard rolls, egg cartons, cereal boxes and even pizza boxes can be used to entertain Deefer. Place some treats in them and let him find the treats and have fun destroying the boxes. The bonus is that you are provided with exercise picking up the pieces afterwards! Be careful though if Deefer likes to ingest foreign materials.

### ***Treasure Hunt***

Before you go out to work in the morning or out for dinner at night, instead of giving Deefer his regular dinner in a bowl take a cup of dry food and go out into your backyard and throw it all over the grass. That should keep him busy for a little while. Also try hiding his stuffed Kongs and bones so when you go off to work he is busy hunting for his food.

### ***Dog Walker***



If you have a busy schedule then consider the services of a dog walker. Be sure to thoroughly check references, insurance and get details of how many dogs are walked etc. Ask the walker to vary the route to make for more interesting walks.

### ***Deefer's Friends***

Maybe Deefer has some friends he could visit once a week, or who could come to visit him. Spending a day with a compatible friend is a great way to enrich Deefer's life and provide some valuable socialization.

### ***Doggy Door***

Dogs that have access to inside the house often spend much of their day inside feeling safe and secure and SNOOZING!

### ***More Ideas for Environmental Enrichment.***

The list is endless and only limited by your imagination. See what else you can add to the list. Remember the motto— do no harm, so make sure that any ideas will not be harmful to your dog.

- Training sessions – tricks, agility, obedience, etc.
- Dog sports
- Doggy Day Care
- Old balls eg: footballs, soccer balls
- Rope toys
- Frisbee
- Tunnel
- Hanging toys
- Pigs ear/sheep's ear
- TV or Radio on timer
- Treats in ice cubes floated in large water container
- Grass and Herb garden
- Collection of 'smelly items' from outside environment
- Barrels
- Scent trails (bury treats around back yard, under pots, wrapped up in old rags etc)
- Taped animal sounds
- Parcel – multi wrapped, some treats inside
- Clam shell – filled with shredded paper or sand for treasure dig
- Pinata – milk carton with small hole filled with treats and suspended
- Bike tyres cut up (wire removed) with food smeared in them
- Move furniture around
- Play hide n Seek with your dog in a safe area. (The dog has to find you.)

NB. Some of the above ideas may not suit your situation and may cause more problems – be sensible when choosing the best options for your dog.

### **Walks**

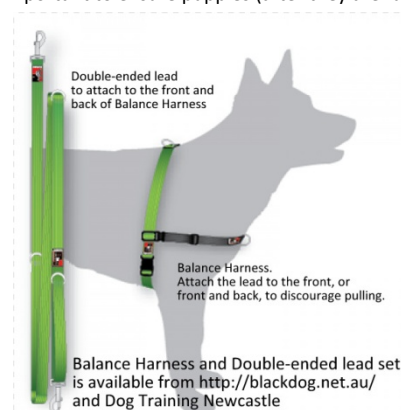
City/suburban dogs need a daily walk (or two is even better) of at least 20 to 30 minutes each. The purpose of the walk is not just exercise, though this is very important, it is also for mental stimulation. All of the sights and especially all the fascinating smells are very exciting to your dog and are necessary to keep him from becoming bored and crazy when at home.

Walks also help with socialization because he comes into contact with new people and dogs. It is important to ensure puppies (after they are fully vaccinated) and young dogs are socialized by coming in contact with lots of new people, dogs, and places.

Pulling problems can sometimes be reduced by the use of a front attach harness and the use of a longer lead (180-200 cm) which gives the dog enough ability to explore without pulling. Better yet, train your dog to walk without pulling. Go to a positive reinforcement training class or watch the training videos online at <http://www.youtube.com/kikopup>

### **The Importance of Using a Harness for Walking**

We strongly recommend the use of a harness for walking dogs, especially small dogs. because unlike a collar a harness It won't slip over his head, and It won't hurt his throat.



When a dog gets excited or frightened, he will tend to backup and then a collar can easily slip over his head. To try to prevent this, the collar would need to be very tight, making it uncomfortable for the dog, and even then there would still be the danger of it slipping over his head. It is cruel for a dog to wear a tight collar, so use a loose collar for identification (and keep it on at all times) and use a harness for walking. You should be able to put two fingers under his collar. Check the fit of your dog's collar every week and loosen it as he grows to make sure it is never too tight. For puppies, check every day.

Another problem with using collars for walks is that small dogs have delicate throats and pulling on the collar can hurt their throat. A collar is always required to be worn, but the purpose of it is to hold the ID tag, not for walking. A harness enables a dog to be walked without danger of getting off the lead or hurting their throat.

For dogs which pull, a front attach harness such as "Balance" harness by [blackdog.net.au](http://blackdog.net.au) or an "Easy Walk" harness is much better than a standard back attach harness.



Some harnesses also have a loop which you can put a seat belt through. This is fine for a dog which doesn't move around much. But it is not good for most dogs because it will allow too much movement and also get twisted. To solve this, either use a pet carrier in the car (recommended) or buy an adjustable length strap which clicks into the seat belt clip on one end and hooks onto the harness on the other. This enables the dog to be safe in the car without danger of flying forward if you brake suddenly. These are available from pet shops.

### **Safe Car Travel**

Did you know, it is *illegal in NSW* to have an unrestrained dog in your car and can result in a fine?! Illegal or not, it is not safe for you or your dog to have an unrestrained dog in your car. If you have to brake suddenly your dog will go flying into the windscreen or the back of your seat and could be injured or injure you. He could also distract you from driving or get under your feet. The same applies to a cat or any other animal in your car.

There are three safe ways to take your dog with you in the car:

#### ***Harness and Tether***

We recommend the use of a **harness** for walking your dog instead of a collar. This same harness can also be used in the car in conjunction with a seat belt restraint strap (aka tether) (photos below). A restraint strap is a simple strap which clicks into your car's seat belt buckle on one end and clips onto your dog's harness on the other. Caution, don't use the restraint strap with a *collar*, because if you brake suddenly you could snap your dog's neck! Only use the seatbelt restraint strap with a harness. Harnesses and tethers are available in pet shops. This solution can be used for any size dog.



The safest place for your dog is restrained in the *back* seat, not the front seat, because the

force of an airbag can kill a dog in the front seat.



#### ***Pet Crate***

A pet crate or carrier is a special pet cage or box into which you put your dog. This allows your dog to be safe as well as comfortable. Just be sure attach the carrier to the car in some way so that it doesn't go flying in case of an accident or sudden braking. You can slip it under a fastened shoulder belt in the back seat and secure it with a carabiner or else use a seat belt tether. This solution also has the advantage of confining any mess to the crate if your pet gets car sick. Also, if your dog barks in the car, covering the crate so he can't see out may calm him. A pet carrier is also a good investment because when it is not being used in the car it can be used, with the door open or removed, as a dog bed.

#### ***Cargo Barrier***

If you have a station wagon, 4WD, or van it can be fitted with a cargo barrier between the rear, cargo section and the passenger section. Your canines can be safe in the rear section and humans safe in the front. However, this solution is only practical for large dogs because small and medium dogs would have too much room to fly around back there and be injured in case of an accident. If you put small and medium dogs in the cargo area, they will need to be restrained with a harness and tether or in a pet crate.

Be sure not to let your dog stick his snout or head out of the window of a moving vehicle. He could get some flying debris in his eyes, ears, nose or mouth. If the window is open enough for him to get his head out, then there could be a danger of him jumping out of the window. A dog barking out of a window could be a dangerous distraction to you, other drivers, and pedestrians.

## **Your Dog on the Back of a Ute**

It is not safe or kind to allow your dog to travel in the back of an open ute, truck, or other vehicle. It is dangerous and cruel for a number of reasons:

- Your dog has no protection and will probably be killed if your vehicle rolls over.
- If you turn a corner quickly, or brake suddenly or get hit by another vehicle, your dog could be thrown off the vehicle. If he is tethered by his collar he's likely to have his neck broken. If he is tethered using a harness he's likely to suffer extreme trauma injury or death. If he is unsecured by any sort of tether then he'll go flying to his death.
- He is vulnerable to having debris fly into his eyes, ears, nose and mouth.
- He is exposed to extreme cold when the vehicle is moving and extreme heat and sun when stopped. He is fully exposed to rain.
- If your dog is barking at other vehicles or other dogs it is a dangerous distraction to you and other drivers.
- It is tiring and may become painful for your dog to be standing and bracing against the vehicle movement.
- Cargo in the back of the vehicle could pose a danger to your dog if it slides or rolls into your dogs legs, or your dog gets thrown against it.
- Many dogs on the backs of utes are terrified. They know how vulnerable they are. The next time you see a dog on the back of a ute, take a moment to notice and you will often see fear displayed in their body language (tail down, ears back, braced legs).

If you love your dog, look after his or her safety in your vehicle. You wouldn't allow your child to travel in the back of a ute, so don't allow your best friend back there either. Keep him with you in the cabin, wearing a harness and clicked into the seat belt using a restraint strap/tether. Alternatively, put your dog in a pet cage which is covered from the elements and securely tied down in the back of the vehicle.

## **Coat and Skin Care**

Some dogs have coats which shed, and other dogs (such as poodles, Shih Tzu and Maltese) have non-shedding coats. Non-shedding coats may require a little more care, but have the advantage that they don't shed hair all over you or your house.

If your dog is the type of dog which dog sheds, you will need to brush him coat regularly (about once a week) but he won't require haircuts. You may choose to get his hair cut in summer for his own comfort though. Often the coat sheds heavily at the beginning of summer. At this time he will need daily brushing. The more you brush your dog, the more hair will stay in the brush and the less hair you will get in your house. Shedding dogs don't require frequent bathing, just occasionally when the need arises, especially during the summer, perhaps once a month.

If your dog does not shed (such as poodles, Shih Tzu and Maltese) then he will require regular brushing, bathing and clipping (i.e.: grooming, hair cutting), but at least you won't have a house full of dog hair. He will benefit from daily brushing or combing to keep tangles and mats to a minimum. He will need a bath probably once every 3 weeks. You shouldn't bathe him more than once a week as this will strip his skin of natural oils and cause itching and irritation.

It's easy to bathe your dog yourself. Use only good quality dog shampoo, never human shampoo because the Ph level is different and it will irritate your dog's skin. We recommend Aloveen Shampoo and Conditioner or Oakwood Pet Care products for dogs with normal or sensitive skin. Fido Flea Shampoo is good for rare use during a flea outbreak but is no substitute for monthly flea treatment such as Comfortis.

When your dog's hair is getting tangled or long, take him to a dog groomer for clipping. Alternatively, you can save money by learning to do this yourself at a 2 day course offered by WEA Newcastle. Your dog's coat is best kept short during the summer months so he doesn't get too hot. Your dog will probably need clipping approximately every 2 or 3 months.

Look out for a common weed called "wandering Jew" which causes skin irritation in most dogs. Look up a photo on the internet then search your garden for it. If you find it in your garden, remove it.

## **Prevention and Treatment of Skin Problems**

### ***Causes and Preventions of Skin Problems***

**Fleas** - use a monthly flea treatment such as Comfortis tablets, Advantix, Sentinel or Revolution. Wash all dog bedding. Spray all dog beds, kennels and environment with Frontline Plus spray. Don't allow the dog under the house. Get your property treated by a professional pest controller. Fido Flea Shampoo is good but don't use it on dogs with sensitive skin, and it is no substitute for monthly treatment. In between monthly treatments, if you still have a few fleas on the dog, spray the dog with Frontline Plus spray or give a Capstar tablet.

**Stress** - some dogs will scratch, lick or bite themselves when they are feeling stressed. Stress can be caused by many things such as inadequate exercise, being hungry, being bored, being left home alone a lot, being picked on by another dog, being harassed and teased by children, being hit or yelled at.

**Environmental Factors** such as sensitivity to plants in the garden such as *wandering Jew*. Sensitivity to wool or other fibres in blankets or other bedding. Insects such as lice, flies or mosquitoes.

Food Allergy - The most common food problem is sensitivity to a particular meat. Eliminate dry food and processed dog foods such as tinned food. Change your dog's diet to only fish and vegetables for three weeks to see if the scratching is reduced. If it is, gradually add back one type of meat at a time. If the itching starts again you'll know what food is causing the problem and can eliminate it permanently. Check our website "Dog Care and Training" page to download a detailed document about food allergies and the allergy elimination diet.

Poor diet - If your dog eats primarily dry food, especially inexpensive food, he may be lacking essential oils. Give your dog only super premium dog food and supplement it with fresh meat and vegetables. Also, add Flaxseed oil from the supermarket or Dr Bruce's Omega Blend oil from pet shops to his food.

Dirty or Dry Skin - All dogs need regular baths, approximately every 3 or 4 weeks. Don't use people shampoos on dogs. Use only a good quality dog shampoo and conditioner. We recommend Aloveen oatmeal shampoo and conditioner. These can be purchased from your vet or pet shops.

If you let your dog swim in the ocean, pool, or creeks be sure to give him a bath or at least rinse him off thoroughly as soon as you get home.

Plain, unscented, sorbeline lotion can be applied to dry skin to sooth it.

Non-shedding dogs (Maltese, poodles, etc) also need regular grooming (aka: clipping) , approximately once every month or two. You can learn how to do this yourself in a short, 2 day course at WEA.

Dry skin can be improved by adding a small amount of flaxseed oil from the supermarket Dr Bruce's Omega Blend oil (from pet shops) or fish oil to his food.

### ***Treatment of Skin Problems***

If you've tried all of the preventative measures above and still have a problem you should **consult your vet**. He or she may prescribe:

Neocort cream to be applied to hot spots on the skin. This works well for outbreaks but shouldn't be used long term.

Prednisolone tablets or injection will reduce itching and allow the skin to heal. This is a corticosteroid and has side affects so shouldn't be used long term.

Atopica capsules are a new treatment which have proven to be very effective and is a better long term solution than corticosteroids. Please consult your vet.

As a last resort, if your dog persists in licking, biting or scratching himself to the point of causing skin damage, your vet may recommend the use of an Elizabethan collar. Use this collar only after you've seen the vet. It is frustrating for the dog and shouldn't be used any longer than is required to address the cause of the problem and to allow the skin to heal.

Skin problems are common (about 10% of dogs) amongst dogs of all breeds. If your dog is scratching or biting himself excessively or develops sores, or bald patches, take him to the vet without delay. Skin irritations can make your dog's life a misery and can lead to serious infections, so it is important to get the problem professionally diagnosed and treated. There is no need for your loyal friend to suffer.

### **Bad Breath and Dental Problems in Dogs**

If your dog has bad breath it is probably caused by teeth or gum problems. Dental problems should never be ignored. They are very painful and can cause your dog not to eat properly, to feel stress, unhappy and can even cause heart damage. Here are some common problems and suggestions:

- Check for food stuck between his teeth
- Try giving him a doggy chew daily made especially to clean teeth such as Greenies or Pedigree DentaStix. Try it every day for a fortnight to see if bad breath improves.
- Check for rotten, cracked, decayed teeth and yellow, black or green coating or discoloured teeth.
- Pale, red or bleeding of the gums.

If you think he will tolerate it, the best solution is probably to brush his teeth using special dog toothpaste and toothbrush available from vets. The vet nurse can advise how to slowly introduce these things to his daily routine. The younger you start this with your dog the easier it will be.

If the above home remedies don't work then please take your dog to the vet. Don't let him suffer. Many older dogs suffer needlessly with painful teeth. Please seek veterinary treatment. The vet can find the cause of the problem and resolve it. Usually the vet will need to anaesthetise your dog to clean his teeth. Most dogs need to have their teeth professionally cleaned by a vet as they get older.

Remember, you can help prevent painful tooth loss and gum disease in your dog by giving raw bones, Greenies or Pedigree DentaStix and minimising the sweets.

## Bedding

You should provide a dog bed for every dog in your household. If you have more than one dog, they may swap around, but as long as there is one bed for each dog, then fights can be avoided. Ideally, your dog should sleep inside. But when he is outside please ensure he has access to shelter such as a laundry, garage or a kennel. The kennel should be in a sheltered, shady location under cover of a verandah. Ideally, it should be facing the house so he can see the people inside, or a view outside your property. If he is outside during cold weather please put a warm coat on him. Make sure he has soft bedding or a trampoline style bed. This is needed to avoid sores and joint pain. Check his bedding at least every couple of days to make sure it is clean and dry. Wash it weekly.

## Training

All dogs, young and old, large and small, need some basic training. It is necessary for their confidence and safety that you are able to guide them out of trouble, especially in public. Training a dog is fun and easy and will help to form a trusting bond between you and your dog. We only recommend the use of positive, reward based dog training, which rewards desired behaviour and redirects undesired behaviour. We do not recommend the use of punishment of any kind, such as jerking on a check chain, dominating, yelling at, or bullying your dog in any way. Punishing methods are ineffective, unnecessary, can cause aggression and are damaging to your relationship with the dog.

### How to Train Your Dog

**Never hit, kick, hold down, use a check chain, or physically punish any dog.** We can't stress this enough! It won't stop the behavior and is sure to lead to worse behavior such as biting or aggression.

The first place to look for lots of useful information, downloads and links is the "Dog Care and Training" page our Dog Rescue Newcastle website <http://www.dogrescuenewcastle.com.au/care.html>

You can download the **FREE StarMark Dog Training Made Easy**, a comprehensive 53 page, dog training guide for positive reinforcement training. Nearly every skill/behaviour/trick you might want to teach your dog is in this free guide! Plus problem solving, how dogs learn, and common myths. You can also download a 3 page Quick Start Guide.

An excellent website for dog training videos and information including problem solving is **Dogmantics**. Just go to the <http://www.dogmantics.com/> homepage and click on the "Free Video List" link at the top of the page.

**Clickety Clips** <http://www.clicketyclips.com/> - A collection of all the best dog training videos on the web in one place! Sorted into logical categories so you can find what you want. Plus information about dog care, dog body language, how dogs learn, etc. Your first place to go when you need help training your dog.

### Private Dog Training Lessons or Consultations

If you need expert advice, especially if you experience problem behavior, you can hire a dog trainer. If you live in the Newcastle or Lake Macquarie area we can recommend these qualified trainers: Terri (phone 0419 470 910), Margaret Keast (phone 0403-676-047), and Eve McKenzie (phone 0400 439 977).

There is a complete list of recommended classes for puppies and dogs and dog trainers on the Dog Rescue Newcastle website "Dog Care and Training" page <http://www.dogrescuenewcastle.com.au/care.html>

You can find a qualified, positive trainer in your area by looking on the APDT website <http://apdt.com.au/trainers-directory/locate-trainer-near-you.html> and the DPDTA website <http://www.dpdt.com.au/> and selecting your state.

### Puppy Pre-School and Adult Dog Training

During the first months of your puppy's life it is important to teach him some basic manners and also to socialise him by gently introducing him to new places, things, people and animals. Early training will ensure that your puppy grows up into a well-behaved dog which you are happy to keep for his lifetime. All vets can put you in touch with puppy pre-school classes in your area but not all classes are good. Be sure your trainer has formal qualifications such as a Cert IV in Companion Animal Services from the Delta Society.

Classes for Puppies: In Newcastle and Lake Macquarie we recommend Lake Vets (Belmont and Charlestown) phone 02 4945 9677 and Macquarie Vetz in Warners Bay, phone 02 4956 7719.

Classes for Dogs: Don't forget, training is not just for puppies. Make sure you choose a class which uses only positive, reward-based training with no check chains or reprimands. In Newcastle and Lake Macquarie we recommend Dog Training Newcastle <https://www.facebook.com/DogTrainingNewcastle> phone 0419 470 910 and Cool Doggie Training <http://www.cooldoggietraining.com.au>

You can find a qualified, positive trainer in your area by looking on the APDT website <http://apdt.com.au/trainers-directory/locate-trainer-near-you.html> and the DPDTA website <http://www.dpdt.com.au/> and selecting your state.

## Training Tips

The first place to look for lots of useful downloads and links is the "Dog Care and Training" page our Dog Rescue Newcastle website <http://www.dogrescuenewcastle.com.au/care.html>

To sit: with a treat in your hand, hold the treat close to your dogs nose and slowly move your hand back between his ears. As soon as he sits, give him the treat. When he can do this reliably, give the hand signal *without* having a treat in your hand. When he sits, feed him the treat from your other hand. When he is responding reliably to the hand signal you can say "sit" before you give the hand signal.

To lay down: hold a tasty treat close to your dogs nose and slowly move your hand down to his feet, then away from him. As soon as he lays down, give him the treat. When he can do this reliably, give the hand signal *without* having a treat in your hand. When he lays down, feed him the treat from your other hand. When he is responding reliably to the hand signal you can say "drop" before you give the hand signal.

To settle down inside. Your dog should have a mat or a bed which is his special place indoors. When you want him to settle down or get out of your way, point to his mat and say "on your mat". To teach this, lure him to his mat with a treat. As soon as he is on the mat give him the treat or toss it on his mat. Instruct him to sit and lay if you wish. The mat is not a punishment. It is his safe haven. Reward him for going on it by giving him a belly rub or treat! His mat should be positioned next to your usual seat at first then can be gradually moved further away if you wish, but it should not be isolated away from the rest of the family as this would be considered by him to be a punishment.

To stop him jumping up on you: before he jumps, ask him to "sit" then reward his sitting. If he jumps up on you, quickly turn your upper body away from him and ignore him. Don't make eye contact and don't say a word but watch him from the corner of your eye. As soon as he puts all four paws on the floor, quickly turn back and reward him with your attention; give him praise and perhaps a treat. Instruct everyone he encounters, including children, to ignore jumping and reward not jumping. It really works!

Remember, **reward behavior that you want to encourage and redirect and manage behavior that you want to discourage**. Ignoring a dog is the worst thing you can do to him. Never hit or kick or yell at a dog. It doesn't work and it can cause aggression.

Walking on the lead: We strongly recommend the use a harness rather than collar for walks for two reasons: a collar can slip over his head and a collar can harm his throat. Never use a check chain or yank on your dog. Use a 180cm or 200cm lead. These give the dog enough ability to explore and sniff without pulling. If your dog pulls use a front attach harness rather than a back attach. To train your dog not to pull on lead: Carry a few treats with you. Reward him for staying with you by giving him treats with your left hand, at your left leg. If he starts to pull on the lead, immediately stop walking (don't pull him), pause for several seconds, say his name to get his attention and wait to see if he will release the pressure. If he does, continue walking, if he does not, then turn around 180 degrees and walk in the opposite direction (say "this way"). When he comes next to your leg hand tell him how wonderful he is but don't give him a treat. If he starts pulling again, stop, pause for several seconds, get his attention and wait to see if he will release the pressure. If he does, continue walking. If he doesn't then turn around and walk in the opposite direction. Continue to use the pause, stop and turn around technique every time he pulls. He will soon get the idea that to advance, he needs to not pull. Practice this first in your yard, then in a park away from distractions such as other dogs. Be sure to hold him securely away from other dogs and small children you may encounter on walks. This may change in the future as he becomes more confident, but in the beginning, it is better to be safe.

Note, that in dog language, reaching to pat a dog's head is can be threatening. Therefore, it is better to reach for his body or chest first instead of going straight for the head. It is important to teach this to children who may want to pat your dog. Leaning over a dog is threatening, as is staring at a dog. Approach a dog you don't know well from the side not the front.

Always give praise and perhaps a back scratch or belly rub to reward him for good behavior. When first getting to know your dog, you will probably need to tempt him with a treat in order to get him to obey. But soon you will only need to reward him with a treat occasionally. Also give lots of other rewards though such as your love!

## Housetraining

Whether or not your dog is already housetrained, please understand that it is common for there to be accidents in the house for the first few weeks. This is because he may be anxious and also because he hasn't yet learned how or where to signal that he needs to go out. Please be patient and understanding when this happens and don't punish the dog. Take your dog outside every two hours and praise him anytime you see him toileting outside. Keep a close eye on him when he's indoors for the first couple of days and if you see him sniff and circle like he may need to "go", calmly lead him outdoors. Never punish a dog for toileting indoors. It won't fix the problem and will only teach the dog that you are scary and unpredictable.

Also, many male dogs will often do a certain amount of "territory marking" or urinating around his new home, inside and outside. This is especially true if you have had or currently have another dog on the property. This marking behavior will usually stop within a day or two. Contact Dog Rescue Newcastle and ask about a "belly band" for your male dog.

## How to Housetrain

The key to this process is to be consistent and patient. Most puppies will not be 100% housetrained until they're 7 months old. The goal is to have no "accidents" inside so that the puppy never learns to go inside, he is always taken outside to set him up for success.

- Never, ever scold, punish or reprimand your dog for eliminating inside.
- Keep your dog on a consistent, daily feeding schedule. 2 meals per day for adults and 3 or more meals per day for puppies under 6 months old, or per your vet. Remove any uneaten food after 20 minutes. Don't leave food out all the time.
- When your dog is indoors keep him in the same room with you and watch him like a hawk!!! Watch for early signs that she needs to eliminate so that you can anticipate and prevent accidents from happening. These signs might include pacing, whining, circling, sniffing or leaving the room. If you see any of these, calmly lead your dog outside as quickly as possible.
- Keep a jar of treats and a clicker at your door or outside. Accompany your dog outside and say "do wee-s" as soon as she squats or begins to eliminate. At the last moment when she is finishing click and give a treat as soon as she is done. Timing is important - be accurate. Throw a party! Praise her lavishly and reward her with a treat, play a game, or do anything else she loves.
- It's best to take your dog to the same place outside each time because the smell can prompt her to eliminate where she's eliminated before. Take your dog out on a lead rather than carrying her. Just stand there with her and be boring. Let her sniff around.
- Feed your dog outside and don't let him back inside for 20 minutes after eating or until you see him urinate or defecate.
- Take your dog outside on a consistent and frequent schedule. Puppies need to be taken outside every hour (adult dogs every 2 hours) during the day. Puppies also need to be taken out once in the middle of the night too.

To summarise:

Puppies should have the opportunity to go out first thing in the morning, last thing at night, after waking up, after meals, after playing, after being confined, and before being confined or left alone. Fully house-trained adult dogs should have the chance to eliminate outside at least four times a day.

- Plan about 8 scheduled trips outside each day, for example:
  1. first thing in the morning
  2. after breakfast (give up to 20 minutes outside)
  3. after mid-morning play session
  4. after waking from a nap or being confined
  5. after lunch (give up to 20 minutes outside)
  6. after afternoon play session
  7. after dinner (give up to 20 minutes outside)
  8. before being put to bed for the night
  9. (also, for puppies: once in the middle of the night)

Remember to reward each incident outside with praise and/or a small treat.

- Keep in mind that some dogs tend to eliminate as soon as they go outside, but others need to move around and explore for a bit first, so give them up to 20 minutes.
- Take some treats and clicker with you when you take your dog for a walk and click and reward her when she does her business when on walks.
- To discourage "accidents" overnight, the main thing you can do is try to make sure he does a wee outside before bedtime. Unless it is warm weather, you can remove the water bowl 2 hours before bedtime, then replace it in the morning. So, if he empties his bladder before bedtime and doesn't have water available to him during the night, you have the best chance of reducing night time accidents.
- Not all dogs learn to let their caretakers know that they need to go outside by barking or scratching at the door. Others have very subtle signals such as waking up and leaving the room. If letting you know that she needs to go out seems to be a challenge for your dog, consider installing a dog door.

## Frequent Urination

If your dogs seems to be urinating more often than normal you might want to check he doesn't have a urinary tract infection. The signs for this are pain when urinating, blood in the urine, or frequent urination. You might be able to spot these signs if you look for them, or you might not. If in doubt, check with your vet.

Also, if he seems to be drinking a great deal of water, it could be a sign of diabetes. Please contact your vet if you suspect either of these medical conditions and he or she might suggest a vet check.

## Male Dogs Urinating In Your Home (Belly Bands)

Male dogs coming into a new place for the first time will sometimes urinate on the furniture or carpet to mark their territory. This is more likely if the dog is undesexed or there is or has been another male dog in your home. It usually stops after a few days. If you have a problem with your dog doing this, you may consider a "belly band" for *short term* use during training.



A belly band is a strip of fabric which fits around a dog's middle and fastens at the top with Velcro. You adhere a sanitary napkin inside and it acts as a sort of nappy. It's only meant for *short term* use until the dog is trained. Dog Rescue Newcastle has belly bands for sale. It is only for use for a week or two at most. Remove it as much as possible to avoid skin irritation.

### **Barking or Pulling Towards Other Dogs**

Here are some suggestions for dealing with a dog who barks or pulls towards other dogs while out on a walk. First, use a front attach harness, such as a Balance harness from [blackdog.net.au](http://blackdog.net.au). Take a bum bag full of high value dog treats (ie: his favourite food, such as devon, chicken or cheese). When your dog sees another dog approaching in the distance, but before your dog starts to react, distract him with the treats and verbal praise while the other dog is passing by. Try to keep his focus on you and not the other dog as much as possible. You should always remain calm and use a happy voice.

If your dog barks or pulls, immediately cease the food treats and the praising voice – be silent – do NOT show your displeasure with a “NO” or jerk on the lead. Allow your actions to speak louder than words. Abruptly turn on the spot and quickly move away from the approaching person/dog to a point where your dog gives up barking.

Slowly, after a lot of practice he should start looking to you for treats when he sees another dog instead of getting over excited. It will take a while but it's the only method that works...eventually. The trick is to start treating as soon as he sees the other dog but *before* he gets excited about the other dog, and keep your distance.

If you want more help, consult one of the recommended dog trainers on the Dog Rescue Newcastle website "Dog Care and Training" page <http://www.dogrescuenewcastle.com.au/care.html>

Remember to look for good behaviour and reward that with your praise and pats. Don't make the only time you pay attention to your dog when you are correcting him else he'll learn to be naughty because it's the only time he gets the love and attention all dogs crave.

## **Dog Safety Around Children, Cats, and Other Dogs**

If your dog is a young, with lots of energy and enthusiasm, he could easily knock over a small child or elderly person by accident. Your new dog should be kept away from frail people, cats and other small pets such as rabbits or guinea pigs. He should be supervised around new people, especially children, until you are certain that they will not frighten him and vice versa. It is not because your dog is bad. This advice applies to all dogs.

If you have other dogs, your new dog should not be left alone with the other dogs straight away as anything can happen and it is better to be safe than sorry. Wait until you are satisfied that they are all getting along well before you allow them to be together unsupervised.

A dog in the family can be a wonderful source of companionship and fun and there are many benefits for children in growing up with a pet. However it is important that children learn how to interact safely with dogs. Be aware that:

Children raised with friendly dogs may be at risk when around other dogs because they think all dogs are as friendly as their own dog.

Children under seven should never be left unattended with any dog.

All dogs' tolerance levels may reduce with age, pain, stress, high excitement levels or constant exposure to children. Don't let children annoy old or ill dogs.

Create secure 'time-out' areas where your dog can rest away from children for those times when you are unable to supervise children and dogs. Instruct children to bother a resting or sleeping dog.

We need to understand dog's needs and feelings. A dog might be sleepy, angry, sick, frightened and may not want contact. He might not want to be interrupted when eating or playing with a favourite toy.

### **Improve your child's safety around dogs by:**

- Putting a stop to teasing, hurting or interacting roughly with any dogs.
- Practice identifying dog body language and recognising the signs a dog is frightened or angry.
- Stress the importance of staying away from frightened or angry dogs.
- Practice safe interaction with friendly dogs.
- Reinforce what to do if feeling unsafe or threatened by a dog.
- Ask your child to tell you if they feel unsafe around a dog.
- Discuss when not to approach a dog.
- When you are out and about, observe the dogs you see. Discuss each dog's body language and encourage your child to decide how that dog is feeling (relaxed, frightened or angry). This will help your child to understand and interpret dog body language.



- Most dogs are friendly but some are not. We can learn to tell how a dog is feeling by watching their body language.
- Friendly dogs appear relaxed, calm and interested.
- Angry or frightened dogs are unfriendly
- An angry dog will stand up straight, prick its ears, look at you, straighten its tail, might lift its lip or bark.



Educate your child on what to do if approached by a dog that makes him or her feel unsafe

- Stand still. Be absolutely quiet.
- Tuck your fingers under your armpits.
- Do not stare into the dog's eyes.
- Wait for the dog to go away.
- Tell an adult you know and trust.
- Educate your child on how to safely pat a friendly dog:
  - Ask the adult with you first.
  - Ask the dog owner next.
  - Ask the dog as well by:
    - Standing quietly next to the dog.
    - Placing your hand out near the dog, curl your fingers and allow the dog to sniff.
    - Wait to see if the dog wants to be patted and comes to you.
    - If it's OK then just a tickle under the chin or on the chest is most welcome.
  - Do not pat a dog on its head. It may not like it.
  - Do not stare at the dog.

## What To Do If Your Pet is Lost or Stolen

Adapted from the Australasian Animal Registry <http://www.aar.org.au/owners/owner-faqs.html>

- Search the neighbourhood.
  - Circle the area the animal was last seen calling and whistling, make the circle bigger and bigger, asking people as you see them to help.
  - Make familiar sounds, such as tapping the side of a food can and calling out their name
  - Make up a poster with your dog's photo and your contact details including your mobile phone number.
  - Ask local shopkeepers to display your poster and attach posters to power poles in the area.
  - Make up an A5 sized flyer and put it in letter boxes.
  - Go door knocking with your flyer - consider offering a reward.
  - Tell your neighbours and enlist their help to search for your pet.
  - Be sure to check in ceilings, buildings, trees etc for cats. For male dogs ask if any bitches have been "in season" or "on heat" as they will search these females out.
- Ring all of your local vets to see if the animal has been left with them.
- Phone or visit regularly and leave a flyer displaying a photo and all of the animal's information. Since your pet may have been picked up in a vehicle, extend the search to 20km or more.
- Contact your local council and adjoining councils and the Australian Animal Registry to notify them that the animal has been lost so this can be logged.
- Ensure all of your details are up to date so you can be contacted as soon as the animal is found.
- **Contact Dog Rescue Newcastle immediately** for help and advice if you got the dog from us.
- Visit all of the local council pounds and animal shelters (RSPCA).
- Be sure to leave all details including registration details, colour, age, size, tag and microchip so they can look for your pet. Visit these places yourself every couple of days. DO NOT rely on the staff there to identify your pet or notify you. Do not rely on them to contact you, even if your pet is microchipped. Extend your search to include the pounds of adjoining council areas.
- Place an ad in the lost/found section of your local newspaper to widen the search.
- Don't forget to check the found section in case your animal has been located. There are also websites on which you can look for the details of your animal:

Useful links for help finding lost dogs:

[www.whosyadoggy.com/australiannewzealand](http://www.whosyadoggy.com/australiannewzealand)

[www.petfinders.com.au](http://www.petfinders.com.au)

[www.wherepetsarefound.com.au](http://www.wherepetsarefound.com.au)

[www.facebook.com/lostpetsinnsw](http://www.facebook.com/lostpetsinnsw)

## Who Will Care For Your Pets If You Are Not Able?

Who will care for your pets if you get taken to hospital in an emergency, or go into a nursing home, or die suddenly? These questions are especially important if you live alone or away from family and friends. Think about what you want to happen to your pets and make arrangements now.

At [Dog Rescue Newcastle](#), we sometimes rescue pets from pounds who were surrendered because their owner died. This is tragic because there is no doubt that the deceased person would be horrified if they knew that their beloved pet had wound up in a pound and was facing euthanasia.

We are also approached by people going into nursing homes who can no longer care for their pets. We help if we can but if we don't have a foster carer available then there is nothing we can do.

We were once asked to rescue two little Maltese dogs that had spent more than 6 weeks locked in a filthy garage after their elderly owner went into hospital. She had made arrangements for the dogs to be fed in the expectation that she would be returning home in a few days, but she did not realise that due to her dementia she could never return home.

These sad stories teach us the importance of making proper arrangements for the care of your pets now, before an emergency arises. This is especially important if you live alone. Don't rely on others to do the right thing if you have not spoken to them and gained their agreement.

You should include your wishes for the care of your pets in your will but you mustn't rely on this. It could be weeks before your will is found and read and by that time it could be too late for your pets. Steps you can take now:

Talk to your relatives and trusted friends and try to get someone to agree to take charge of your pets if you are unable to care for them. How long could your pets live without food and water if you are not providing for them? If you live alone, you should be in contact with someone every few days. Give them the contact details of a trusted neighbour to contact if they are unable to reach you. Give them a list of other friends and relatives to contact. If you are taken away in an ambulance, your neighbours will know before your friends and relatives. Assign someone to pick up your pets from your home as soon as possible.

Give specific instructions to the person you've chosen to take charge of your pets. If they are unable to adopt your pets themselves, give them clear instructions about rehoming them. Refer to the "Placing Your Pet in a New Home" section in this document below. Ask them *never* to surrender your pets to the local pound or RSPCA. Consider leaving them some money in your will to use to either to care for your pets indefinitely or for helping to find them a new home. Tell them you have done this.

If you got your pet from a rescue group, make sure that group is contacted. They will be able to help with rehoming, and if necessary should take the animal back.

If you don't have a friend or neighbour who will do this for you, contact local rescue organisations, kennels and catteries for help. If you are able to provide funds for the support or rehoming of your pets then they should be able to help.

Talk to your neighbours about what you want to be done with your pets if you should be taken away in an ambulance. Give them the contact details of your friend or relative who has agreed to be responsible for your pets.

Write a big note and place it in a prominent position(s) in your home giving instructions to police or ambulance personnel about who to contact to look after your pets. List your pets and where they can be found around your home. I.e: dog or birds in the yard, cat outside, lizard in a spare bedroom, small dog elsewhere in the home.

## Unable to Keep the Dog Which You Adopted from Us?

If one day in the future if you can no longer care for the pet which you adopted from Dog Rescue Newcastle your first step should be to contact us for advice and assistance. Ring Sue on 02-4954-2234 or 0415-367-144 or check our website [www.dogrescuencastle.com.au](http://www.dogrescuencastle.com.au) for our latest contact details. We can advertise your pet for adoption on our website and on a national pet adoption website.

We have made a commitment to your dog or cat and **will always take him back!** Please **never surrender your dog or cat to a pound, your local council or to the RSPCA.** It doesn't matter how many years ago you adopted him from us, we will take him back. We are always here to help you!

Your Adoption Agreement with us requires that you contact us if you can no longer keep the dog you adopted from us. We will assist you to safely find a new home for your dog and can also advertise him on our website.

If you cannot keep your pet until a new home is found we can take your pet back and place him in a foster home. But please understand that we require at least 2 to 3 weeks notice for a foster carer to become available. We will ALWAYS take back any animal which you adopted from us, no matter how long ago you adopted him or her.

After contacting us, ask your trusted family members, friends, co-workers and neighbours if they would like to adopt your pet. Do NOT advertise your pet as "free to a good home". These sorts of ads will attract the wrong sort of owner, including people wanting dogs for dog fighting. If someone can't afford to pay for a pet then they can't afford the vet, grooming and food bills to care for a pet properly. People don't value what they haven't paid for. Potential new owners must be screened very carefully and DRN will assist with this.

Do NOT surrender him or her to a pound! Your pet's chances of finding a good home are slim and he will experience weeks of fear and suffering before being put down. Even if he does get adopted you never know if they will give him a *good* home or not. Your pet may live the rest of his life in misery.

## We Are Here to Help and Support You and Your Dog

Dog Rescue Newcastle can help you at any time with any concerns or questions you may have. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need advice or help looking after your dog. We will always take your dog back, no matter how long ago you adopted him. Please contact us at any time. Current contact details are on our website [www.dogrescuencastle.com.au](http://www.dogrescuencastle.com.au) or contact Sue on 0415-367-144 or email [docman4@bigpond.com](mailto:docman4@bigpond.com)

## Keep In Touch by Email and Facebook

Would you like to keep in touch with us and receive our quarterly newsletter? Simply send an email to [dogrescuencastle@gmail.com](mailto:dogrescuencastle@gmail.com) to request we add you to our mailing list. Love your new pet? Send us a photo and a story about him and we'll add him to the "Success Stories" pages of our website.

Share photos and stories about your new dog! Learn all our latest news, events, and chit-chat on our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/DogRescueNewcastle>. If you have a Facebook account please go to our page and click on the "Like" button. If you haven't joined Facebook yet, you can still read our page, but you won't be able to add your own posts.

Visit our website [www.dogrescuencastle.com.au](http://www.dogrescuencastle.com.au) from time to time to find out what we've been doing.

## How You Can Help Us

**Dog Rescue Newcastle** is a wholly volunteer, non-profit organisation made up of individuals who work to save dogs from euthanasia and find them permanent homes. We are only able to do this vital work thanks to the kindness and generosity of fellow dog lovers such as you. **More details on the "Help Us" page of our website.** If you are happy with your new pet and would like to help us save more pets like him, there are so many ways you can help us:

**Become a Dog or Cat Foster Carer** – our work relies on foster carers who provide temporary homes for the pets we rescue from the pound until we find permanent homes for them.

**Buy Our Merchandise** - We have fundraising pens, mugs, mouse mats and other logo items. We also sell dog coats, belly bands for male dogs, Conni Pads and other items.

**Put Out A Donation Tin** - Do you work in a shop, school or office where you could put one of our donation tins for us? Or maybe you could ask one of the businesses you visit, such as your gym, hairdresser, doctor, church, school, etc to put out a tin for us.

**Spread the Word** – distribute our pamphlets or put up our flyers at your workplace, local shops, neighbourhood centre, library, gym, schools, anywhere you go. Put a link to our website on your website. Contact us for a supply of business cards, posters and/or flyers or download posters and flyers to print from the "Help Us" page on our website.

**Volunteer. Donate Your Time or Skills** – Whatever your skills, we can use them. Talk to us about the possibilities.

**Help with Dog Transport** – We need people to pick up dogs from the pound, deliver them to foster carers, take them to the vet, to groomers, to their new homes and more.

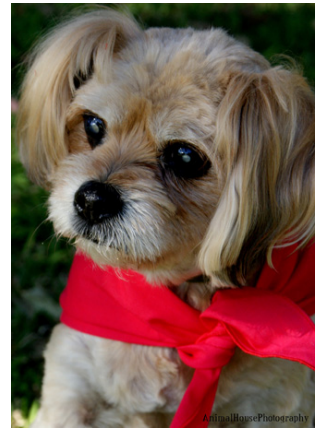
**Donate Goods** – We are always in need of items such as: dog food, puppy food, puppy milk, dog beds, kennels, crates, dog coats, toys, balls, towels, blankets, sheets, etc.

**Donate Money** – Our vet bills are thousands of dollars each month plus we have other expenses such as dog food and supplies. All of our funding comes from donations and from dog adoption fees which often don't fully cover the cost of a dog's care, so we are always very grateful for monetary contributions. Donate securely online through Paypal using your Paypal account, credit card or bank account. Just go to our homepage

and click on the "Donate" button. You can also made a direct deposit or a regular monthly contribution to our bank account at Newcastle  
Permanent: BSB 650 300 Account: 986245302

## **Thank You!**

Finally, thank you very, very much for giving your dog a second chance at life! By adopting a rescued dog in need of a new home, (instead of buying from a pet shop or breeder) you are helping to reduce the demand for puppies from unethical breeders and puppy mills and are saving the life of homeless dog. Your dog faced certain death before being rescued from the pound, so by giving him a home you have literally saved his life! I'm sure he or she will reward you with many years of unconditional love and loyalty.



## Notes About My Dog

Dog's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Microchip number (on registration or vet papers): \_\_\_\_\_

Assumed Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Adopted from Dog Rescue Newcastle on (date): \_\_\_\_\_ Adoption fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### History (if known)

Rescued by Dog Rescue Newcastle on (date): \_\_\_\_\_

Rescued from: \_\_\_\_\_ Pound

Private Surrender.

Circumstances or more information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Dog Rescue Newcastle Foster Carer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email : \_\_\_\_\_

### Veterinary History

Desexed on date: \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ Vet

Vaccinated on date: \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ Vet

next vaccination due on date: \_\_\_\_\_

Worm treatment product: \_\_\_\_\_ given on date: \_\_\_\_\_

Next treatment due: \_\_\_\_\_

Flea treatment product: \_\_\_\_\_ given on date: \_\_\_\_\_

Next treatment due: \_\_\_\_\_

Bathing or Clipping done on date: \_\_\_\_\_ Next grooming due: \_\_\_\_\_

Groomer: \_\_\_\_\_

Any additional health or veterinary notes: