

Dog Care Basics

Dog Rescue Newcastle 0415 367 144 <http://www.dogrescuenewcastle.com.au>

This is a summary only. Please refer to "**Basic Dog Care for DRN Adopters**" booklet for more info.

Refer to the "**Dog Care & Training**" page of our website page for free resources to download, including the "**Basic Dog Care for DRN Adopters**" booklet, and links to dog training videos, trainers and classes.

- There will be a settling in period of 2 to 6 weeks where your new dog may be anxious and have accidents in the house. Please be patient as it will take several weeks for his nervousness to ease and his true personality to emerge.
 - Your dog must wear a collar and ID tag at all times. Leave our Dog Rescue Newcastle ID tag on for the first at least the first 2 weeks. Add your own ID tag with your address and mobile phone ASAP.
 - How to housetrain: watch for signals when he is inside, take him outside every couple of hours, after meals, and once during the night, reward every pee or poo outside. Don't punish accidents! More details in the "**Basic Dog Care for DRN Adopters**" booklet in your Adoption Pack.
 - If your dog needs to be left home alone he should be left inside if possible during the first couple of months until he comes to think of your home as his home. Otherwise, he may try to find a way out of the yard. Leave newspapers or puppy pads on the floor toileting if necessary.
 - Things never to do to a dog: hit, kick, punish, or yell in anger. Never use a choker, prong or shock collar.
 - If your dog is doing something you don't like, think about what you want him to do instead then train him to do that. Distract him until his behaviour is good and then reward good behaviour with your attention or a food reward. Unrewarded behaviour will tend to disappear.
 - If your dog jumps on you, ask him to sit then fold your arms and turn around and ignore the dog until he has 4 paws on the ground. When he does, turn around and give him your attention. Teach this technique to anyone your dog jumps on, especially children. Of course you need to teach him to sit first before you can expect him to do it when you ask.
 - For all dogs, it is best to use only a harness for walking, never just a collar. Using a harness prevents neck damage and slipping out of a collar. For dogs that pull use a front attach harness.
 - Take your dog or puppy to a dog training course. See the "Dog Care and Training" page on the DRN website for help finding a positive reinforcement trainers and classes in your area.
 - Establish a relationship with a local vet and get advice about annual vaccination, worming, heartworm, flea and tick prevention. More details in "**Basic Dog Care for DRN Adopters**" booklet on our website.
 - If your dog is left outside for any length of time he'll need a kennel which is under shelter and near your house. It should contain a cushion and blanket. In the winter, dogs outside need a warm coat.
 - All dogs crave time inside when people are home. It is cruel to leave a dog outside all the time.
 - Children should be taught to be gentle, never hug, kiss, tease or pull a dog. Always supervise children with dogs. Growling is communication and should never be punished. Learn dog body language so you can see when your dog is uncomfortable then call your dog to you to interrupt the interaction.
 - If your dog has a non-shedding coat (Maltese, Shih-Tzu, poodle, etc) he will need daily brushing, monthly bathing, and professional grooming (hair cut) every 2 or 3 months, more often in summer.
 - Never give onions, chocolate, grapes, raisins, macadamia nuts, avocado or fat trimmed from meat.
 - Never give cooked bones. Raw bones are fine but supervise your dog when he has one.
 - Contact us with any questions or concerns. We are always available to help and support you.
- **We will always take the dog back, for the lifetime of the dog.** Your Adoption Agreement with us requires you to contact us if you need to rehome your dog. Even if you move out of our region. Never give your DRN dog way or surrender him to council, a pound, or the RSPCA!

Thanks you for adopting a rescue dog and saving a life!