

Bringing home a new dog can be thrilling, but taking a few minutes to review these essential tips will make all the difference. Ensure a seamless transition for both you and your furry friend by reading through our helpful guidelines.



Allow time for your new dog to decompress in a quiet space before introducing them to your other dog(s). There's no need to rush introductions – let them adjust to their new surroundings, reduce stress and anxiety, and feel secure. Giving your new dog space to decompress sets the stage for a calm and successful introduction to your resident dog(s). Once they've settled, you can begin controlled, outside introductions on leashes. Begin with a 5-minute walk, keeping distance between them, then allow sniffing from nose to butt. Monitor body language, intervening if you notice stress or aggression signs. For puppy introductions, use your yard or home with a gate/fence barrier, following the “**No Paws on the Ground**” rule. Gradually introduce the puppy, supervising interactions closely.



When introducing a new dog to your household, always feed them separately from other pets, at least initially. This helps prevent food-related aggression, resource competition, and stress. Your new dog is adjusting to a new environment, people, and pets, and may feel protective of their food. Feeding separately reduces mealtime stress and anxiety, creates a safe eating space, and fosters positive associations with mealtime. Consider feeding in a quiet area until your new dog becomes comfortable with their surroundings. This simple precaution sets the state for a harmonious household.

Important Contact Information

To contact Paws Rescue League, *please email the relevant team directly*. We have designated email addresses for specific concerns. As a 100% volunteer-run non-profit rescue, our team balances multiple roles, jobs, and family commitments. We appreciate your patience and understanding that response times may vary, up to 72 hours. We strive to respond faster, but prioritize urgent matters. Thank you for supporting Paws Rescue League.

Post-Adoption Support- After adopting, if you have any questions, concerns, or encounter any behavioral or training issues, please reach out to our Post -Adoption Team at: postadopt@pawsrescueleague.org

Medical and Intake Inquiries- For questions or concerns regarding medical issues, veterinary records, or intaking a dog, please contact our Intake/Medical Team at: medical@pawsrescueleague.org

Foster and Volunteer Opportunities- For questions or concerns about fostering a dog, or volunteer roles and responsibilities, please contact our Foster Team at: fosters@pawsrescueleague.org

Adoption Inquiries- Ready to welcome a furry friend into your family? For any questions about the adoption process, please contact our Adoption Team at: adopt@pawsrescueleague.org

General Inquiries and Emergencies- For urgent situations, and general questions or concerns, please contact our Administrative Team at: admin@pawsrescueleague.org



STOP!

Please read before bringing your new dog home.

Before leaving transport or foster home, ensure your new dog's collar is properly fitted and consider using a slip lead for added security. Keep the secure collar and slip lead on your dog until you're safely indoors. Going forward, always ensure a properly fitting collar and keep your dog on a leash, unless in a fully fenced backyard. **This is especially crucial in the first two weeks after adoption, when most dogs are most likely to get lost.**



From
Rescue

to

Home 

We are so happy that you have adopted a rescue dog, and that you have chosen to adopt with Paws Rescue League! We want to give you a few helpful tips, and some things to remember when bringing a rescue dog home. This will help set you both up for success! This folder will also contain your new pets past **medical records** and care information.

*At Paws Rescue League, we prioritize the health and well-being of our dogs. Your newly adopted dog has received thorough veterinary care, including approval for travel and adoption. Additionally, they are up-to-date on all age-appropriate vaccinations. As part of our vaccination protocol, dogs over 12 weeks of age have received a rabies vaccination. However, dogs under 12 weeks will **not** have received this vaccine and will require future administration. If your dog is under six months, they may require an additional DHPP booster, which is scheduled based on their individual vaccination history. We follow the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) guidelines for vaccination schedules, administering vaccines two weeks apart due to the higher exposure risk associated with shelter and rescue environments. Your dog's medical file contains detailed records of their vaccination history, including the date of their last DHPP vaccine. **“NO PAWS ON THE GROUND” is for any puppy or dog who has not had a full schedule of vaccinations. Until two weeks after all THREE boosters have been administered, your puppy is at-risk. They should NOT be put down in the grass or on the ground in any public spaces where another dog may have been, including friend/neighbor's house, stores, and dog parks. They should only touch the ground inside your house and your back yard. Their immature immune system makes them susceptible to deadly, highly contagious viruses such as Parvo, Distemper, Parainfluenza, Adenovirus, etc.**

*Fecal testing is done for all dogs, utilizing IDEXX parasitology tests and fecal flotations, to ensure they are healthy enough for travel. A negative fecal test result is a requirement for travel. As part of our deworming protocol, we conduct multiple rounds of treatment on all of our dogs, as puppies are born with worms. Some puppies and adults may require additional treatments. If you notice worms in your dog's stool, it's likely due to recent deworming prior to travel. Worms can easily transmit through infected areas and dog-to-dog contact, making ongoing monitoring crucial. Please continue to keep a close eye on your dog's health and consult with your veterinarian if you have any concerns.

*Dogs over 28 weeks old undergo heartworm testing, and your newly adopted dog has received a negative result. This test is a requirement for passing their health exam and clearance for travel. To maintain their health, monthly heartworm preventatives are crucial, and your veterinarian can prescribe these medications. Your dog's file includes the date of their last monthly dose. In addition to heartworm prevention, monthly flea/tick preventatives are essential. These can be purchased at most pet stores. While in our care, your dog has received both flea/tick and heartworm preventatives monthly. To ensure continuity, we've included a preventative reminder/checklist in your adoption folder. Please consult your veterinarian for heartworm preventative prescriptions, administer monthly flea/tick preventatives, and review and update the reminder/checklist provided regularly.

*As part of our adoption policy, some partner veterinarians recommend delaying spay/neuter surgery until dogs reach 6 months of age. If your adopted dog is under 6 months and hasn't been spayed/neutered, you're required to schedule the procedure by their 6th month birthday, unless your veterinarian advises otherwise for health or medical concerns. You'll be financially responsible for the costs. Your adoption agreement/contract outlines the specific spay/neuter deadline and other essential information. After the surgery, please email proof to: medical@pawsrescueleague.org.

*Your newly adopted dog is microchipped with Petstablished, and the registration fee is included in your adoption fee. We will take care of registering the microchip in your name, so you can focus on bonding with your new family member. Petstablished will send you a confirmation email with instructions on how to update the microchip information.