

Dog Adoption Packet



Important Information for Adopters of Dogs and Puppies





BERKELEY HUMANE PET PROGRAM:

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2700 9th St.

Berkeley, CA 94710

www.berkeleyhumane.org

Berkeley Humane offers lifetime post-adoption support and advice

Congratulations on Your New Dog!

We know how exciting it can be to add a new dog to your family! Please remember that your dog is excited too, but may be stressed. Her whole life is changing as she all of a sudden has a brand new family and home.

Introduce her to her new family members one at a time. It will ease her transition if you give your dog a few days or weeks to relax and get used to her new routine before inviting all of your friends over to meet her, or going on trips out into the world. Remember to give your dog plenty of breaks away from the excitement where she can relax either in a crate or in a quiet area of the house.

The more patient you are with your dog's transition into your home, the faster you will see positive results!





Returns

It is our hope that your new dog will remain in your home for the rest of her life. We are always available to help you with any concerns you may have, and we hope you will utilize this help before making the decision to return your dog. If you are unable to keep your dog, Berkeley Humane accepts returns of animals adopted from our shelter by appointment.

Berkeley Humane offers lifetime post-adoption support. If an issue arises with your dog, please contact us for advice as early as possible. We strive to help animals stay in their homes, but we recognize that sometimes this is simply not possible. Please understand that returns are very stressful on dogs and should be considered a last resort.

We do not refund any adoption fees, and disposition of all animals is at the sole discretion of Berkeley Humane.

Medical Questions

The Berkeley Humane Hospital provides limited care for certain shelter-related conditions during regular appointment hours for 7 calendar days following the date of adoption. The conditions we will treat at no cost to the adopter during this period are the following:

- Upper respiratory infection
- Kennel cough
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Common infectious skin disorders
- Ear infections
- Suture reactions, seromas, incision complications
- Suture removals

If your new dog needs treatment for any of these conditions, please call the Berkeley Humane Hospital at **(510) 845-7735 ext. 212** to make an appointment. Berkeley Humane cannot provide medical care for adopted animals over the weekends while there is no veterinarian on duty.

In your adoption packet you will find a certificate for one free well-pet exam at seven participating hospitals in the Berkeley/Oakland area. This certificate is valid for 5 calendar days following the date of adoption...and we encourage you to use it right away, even if your new dog is not sick or showing any signs of illness. It is important to establish a relationship with a



veterinarian from Day One – you and your vet will become partners in maintaining the lifelong good health of your dog.

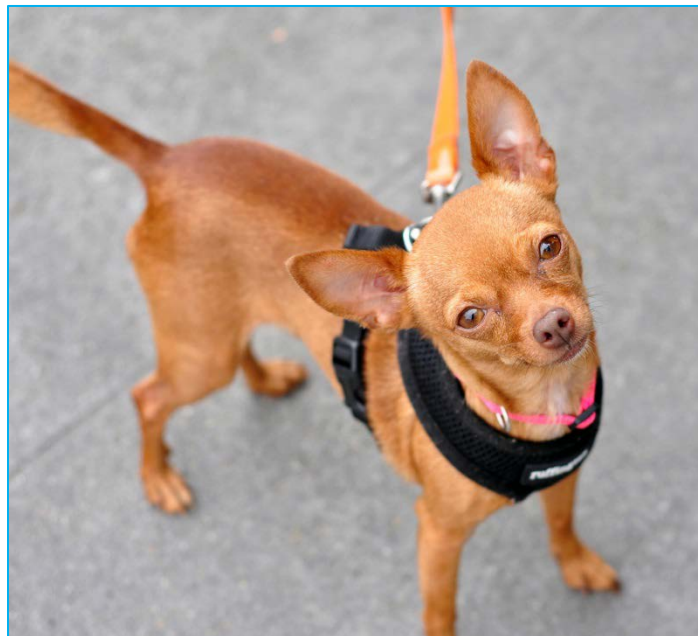
Transition to Home

When you first arrive home, introduce your dog to the spot that you would like them to use when going to the bathroom. If you have a yard, it might be a specific area on grass or dirt. If you do not have a yard you will likely want the spot to be convenient to your front door. Wait a bit to see if she relieves herself. If your dog goes potty reward her with a lot of praise and a tasty treat. Set your dog up for success by letting her know where she is expected to go from day one.

Decide on a space that will be the spot that your dog stays when left alone. This might be a bedroom with a crate in it or a portion of the house that she can be confined in with baby gates such as a kitchen or laundry room. Set up this area with her comfy bed, water bowl and a variety of types of toys. Introduce your dog to her space and give her something tasty to chew on in her little area.

Puppy proof your home. Look around the rooms of the house that your new dog will have access to. Pick up all belongings that might be confused for a chew toy. Put shoes, clothing and children's toys in closets and keep the doors closed. Remove items from coffee tables or pieces of furniture that are down at the dog's level. Don't forget remote controls, phones, magazines and books. Consider restricting your dog's access to certain rooms of the house that may contain many valuables with a gate or by keeping the door closed. Have a supply of dog toys in every room that your dog has access to. If you catch your dog chewing on something inappropriate, quickly grab a dog toy and trade her. With repetition she will learn what is and is not appropriate to chew on.

When you adopt from Berkeley Humane, we want you to feel like part of our family. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns you might have.



Basic Supplies

These are some things you'll need to purchase before or soon after you adopt your new dog:

- **Food** - Select a high quality food which has a meat (chicken, fish, etc) as the main ingredient. *Canidae*, *Wellness*, *Natural Balance*, and *Taste of the Wild* are all good quality, easy to find dog foods. If you aren't sure which food to choose, ask a Petfood Express staff member when you use your 20/20 coupon!
- **Collar and ID tags** - Your dog should **always** be wearing a collar and ID tag, even when he is indoors. (If he gets loose, you won't know until he already is!) Make sure his ID tag includes sufficient means to reach you at any time and indicates that he is microchipped. A separate microchip tag is not necessary.
- **Harness** - We strongly recommend front clip harnesses to use for all dogs on walks, which can be purchased from Berkeley Humane. If you prefer different walking equipment, choose a harness for small dogs to take pressure off their neck, and never use a choke or prong collar regardless of the size of the dog.
- **Leash** – A sturdy 6 foot leash is ideal for leash walking. Avoid retractable leashes, which can pose a significant safety risk and encourage bad leash manners.
- **Toys** - Pick out a variety! Your new dog's preference for particular toys may evolve as



she becomes comfortable in your home. Be sure your toy selections include at least one item which is safe for chewing (some chew toys can't be left with your dog unattended if there is a risk of swallowing tiny pieces) and a stuff-able toy (such as a Kong) to keep him entertained while alone.)

- **Dog bed** - Or a few! Your dog should always have a comfy place to curl up.
- **Poop bags** - Help your new dog be a good neighbor by arming yourself with poop bags any time you are in public with your dog.



Training

Positive Reinforcement

Positive reinforcement training is the most effective, humane manner to shape your dog's behavior and help him/her become a well-mannered member of the community. Berkeley Humane utilizes and recommends positive reinforcement exclusively, and warns strongly against any punishment or "dominance" training techniques. Positive reinforcement utilizes the way your dog thinks to encourage her to repeat behaviors you deem appropriate. Treats are the most commonly used training reward, but affection or toys can also be used to reinforce good behavior.

Positive reinforcement can be applied to almost any aspect of shaping your dog's behavior, not just formal training sessions. For example, if you don't want your dog to jump up on you, *only* pet her when all four of her paws are on the floor! This teaches her that jumping up won't give her the result she desires, and that a better way to get your attention is to remain calm.



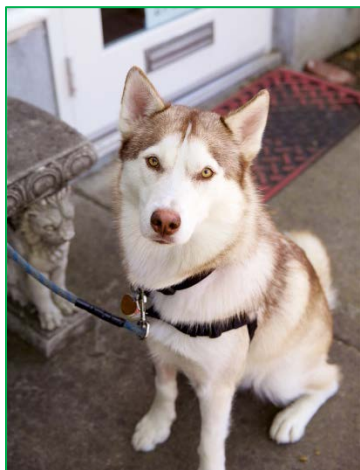
Positive Reinforcement based training strengthens the bond between you and your new dog while she learns the skills to become a well-mannered member of your family. Plus, it's fun for both of you!

Never use aversive equipment or training methods on your new dog. Scolding, hitting, “correcting”, using choke or prong collars, or any other form of punishment will cause your dog to fear you, can cause aggression, and usually won’t teach your dog what you want her to learn

Training Classes

As a Berkeley Humane adopter you are entitled to a 30% off discount on a six-week session of Basic Manners, if you adopted an adult dog or Puppy Kindergarten if you adopted a puppy. We encourage you to take advantage of these classes. Group training classes are often the best way for you and your dog to learn in a fun, structured environment under expert guidance.

To sign up for classes, visit www.TraintheBay.org. Find a class that fits your schedule and register online.



Recommended Resources:

www.asPCA.org/pet-care

www.positively.org

www.doctorsophiayin.com

If you are struggling with the behavior of your newly adopted dog, please e-mail training@berkeleyhumane.org first for expert individualized advice!

House Training

Your dog may or may not be house trained, therefore expect to have some accidents in your home regardless of whether she has been house trained in the past.

The most effective way to manage your dog's elimination habits is to have a consistent eating and eliminating schedule. In addition, taking your dog to the same place helps your dog understand what you want.



Please remember to reward your dog for going to the bathroom outside with praise, petting and treats. You can also give your dog a verbal cue such as, “go potty” and with enough repetition she will learn to go on command. If you do use a verbal cue, wait until she starts to eliminate to say it, so she will form a strong association with her actions.

When you leave your dog home, consider training her to enjoy staying in an enclosed area of the home, or a crate. A small area or crate simulates a den. Dogs typically won't soil this space because it is their sleeping area. If you take your dog outside to her designated potty spot as soon as you let her out of her crate, she is very likely to go because she will have been “holding it” while in her crate. Puppies younger than four months are like babies, and cannot be expected to control their bladders and bowels like an adult animal. To expect otherwise is to set you up for disappointment. Using praise, treats and routine are the most efficient ways to house train your new dog.

Punishing a dog by rubbing her nose in a mess or swatting her with a newspaper will only make her afraid of you, and she will learn that going potty in your presence results in something scary or painful happening. When your dog or pup has an "accident" in the house, simply clean it up. The way you clean the soiled area is critical to ensure the spot does not become a magnet for all of the pets in the household. Avoid using steam cleaners and most commercial carpet cleaners. Use a good enzymatic cleaner, such as Nature's Miracle or Anti-Icky-Poo which are available at most pet supply stores.





Crate Training

Providing a crate for your dog can be a great way to train her and introduce her to her new environment. The dog crate has long been accepted by breeders, trainers, groomers and veterinarians as an outstanding method for house training and ensuring your dog is safe and comfortable when left alone. Crate training your dog can help you prevent, control and manage common problem behaviors of dogs. Dogs love having a place of their own, and a crate can replicate the safety and security of a den.

A crate will help you:

- House train your dog more quickly, establishing a regular routine
- Enjoy peace of mind, knowing your dog is safe and your home will not be soiled or damaged
- Travel with your dog without causing distractions for the driver
- Provide your dog with a secure place where she can retreat when tired, stressed, or ill

Training your dog to feel comfortable in her crate must be done slowly and gradually. Place the crate in the home in an area where people spend time; the living room or bedroom are good choices. Start by leaving the door open and tossing a tasty treat inside for her to go in after. Once your dog is comfortable going in and out for the treat, place a stuffed Kong, pig ear, Bully Stick or other long lasting chew treat in the crate. When your dog goes into the crate and settles down to chew, close the door for a few seconds. Open the door, call your dog out and remove the chewy. When she's in the crate, the chewy appears, when out of the crate, it disappears. This will encourage your dog to enjoy being in her crate because there is always something delicious to chew on inside. Gradually increase the time the door stays closed working from seconds to minutes to hours. If your dog whines or cries briefly, just wait for a moment of silence before letting her out. Otherwise, your dog will learn that whining is the way to get out of her crate, and she will keep doing it. If you have adopted a puppy make sure you grant requests to potty and ignore the request for attention.



Some dogs suffer from severe distress when left alone; these dogs generally cannot handle crating. It is important to distinguish the difference between a dog that is seeking attention and one that is in distress. If your dog urinates and defecates in her crate when left alone, drools profusely when crated and alone or injures herself attempting to break out of her crate or confinement area please contact us. You may need the help of a certified trainer or behaviorist to develop a program to help your dog adjust to being left alone.

Puppies

Raising a puppy can be a heartwarming, wonderful experience, but it's also a lot of work! By setting good foundations of training and socialization beginning now, you will help influence her behavior and manners throughout her entire life. Raising a puppy is a huge responsibility to take on, but you're already on the right track to being a good puppy parent by choosing to adopt a rescue instead of buying from a breeder!

- Do your research! Whether or not you've raised a puppy in the past, it's important to read up to prepare yourself for all aspects of raising your puppy. A good start is Dr. Ian Dunbar's [Before You Get Your Puppy](#) and [After You Get Your Puppy](#), both of which are available as PDFs online. Make sure that any research you read utilizes force free, science based training methods (positive reinforcement) and does not recommend any punishment or dominance methods. Written or recorded resources are not a replacement for participating in training classes, but they can help you set good foundations while you wait for your Puppy Kindergarten class to start!
- Enroll in a Puppy Kindergarten class! Puppy Kindergarten has all the benefits of a standard basic obedience class, with the added bonus of socializing with other puppies under professional supervision.
- Socialize, socialize, socialize! Your puppy should be exposed to as many different people (and different types of people), animals, environments, objects, etc., as possible. Make sure that your puppy is in a comfortable and confident mindset before exposing him to new things, and always match new experiences with tasty treats, a favorite toy, or whatever he loves most!
- Remember that your puppy is going to get big, and fast! Set ground rules immediately. If you don't want a large adult dog using your couch as a bed, don't teach your puppy that the couch is a good place to cuddle! It may be cute for your puppy to leap on you for attention, or nibble on your hands while you're playing, but she won't understand why this suddenly becomes



unwanted as she grows. Teach her now how you'd like her to act when she's huge.

- Make your home puppy-ready! Assume that anything your puppy can reach, she will eat. Make sure that anything your puppy could ingest or destroy is far out of reach, and research which of your houseplants may be poisonous to her. Decide where she will stay when left alone, even for short periods of time. A bathroom or exercise pen lined with a shower curtain or something else waterproof typically works well.
- Start potty training **now!** He's old enough to learn how to get it right, and the sooner you start showing him how, the better results you will see. Be careful if you use "potty pads", because over use can cause dogs to become confused as to why it's sometimes okay to go potty inside, but not other times.

Multi Dog Households

Sharing your home and heart with multiple dogs can be very rewarding for you and your pets but also necessitates some additional considerations. Start your dogs off on the right foot by bringing your current dog(s) to Berkeley Humane, and having our trained adoption staff facilitate an introduction. If you are unable to bring your current dog(s) to Berkeley Humane, you will receive an additional handout with tips for introducing your dogs at home, which your adoption counsellor will go over with you. Keep in mind that, as with humans, every individual pairing of dogs is a unique relationship which may not mirror interactions she has had with other dogs in the past.

Following are a few tips to help keep the peace within your canine family:

- Make sure that each of your dogs has his/her own food, water, toys, bed, and space to be by themselves. Some dogs will guard resources (food, toys, etc) from one another, and need to be separated when they have access to them.
- Both/all of your dogs should be receiving plenty of attention, play, and love from you, both as a group and as individuals.



- Be aware of differences in energy levels and play style, and make sure that both/all dogs' exercise needs are being met.
- Do not leave your dogs along together until you are 100% positive that they will get along safely when unattended. If you aren't sure, create a routine of separating your dogs and providing them with a Kong or other puzzle toy as you leave the house.
- Avoid assumptions about your dog's tendency to be "dominant" or "submissive". Interactions between dogs are fluid, and rarely this simple. Instead, look at the specific way your dogs are interacting and any circumstances which may influence their behavior. If you aren't sure how to proceed, contact our training department!



Lost Dog

We encourage you to keep a sturdy collar with a tag on your dog at all times. Make sure the tag has at least one phone number where you can be reached easily. Your dog has been microchipped either here at Berkeley Humane or elsewhere prior to arriving. A microchip, which is about the size of a grain of rice, provides an identification number that is maintained by a national registry. This number can be traced to you if your dog is lost and brought to a shelter or vet hospital to be scanned. It is important to keep your information updated with the microchip registry. Please check the records we gave you when you adopted your dog to find out the manufacturer of your dog's microchip and keep their contact info handy in case the worst happens.



Licensing Information

California Health and Safety Code Section 121690 requires that all dogs over the age of four months old be vaccinated against rabies with an approved vaccine. Berkeley Humane vaccinates all dogs over the age of four months for rabies, if the vaccine has not been given previously or there are no known vaccination records. If Berkeley Humane has vaccinated your new dog, you will receive a printed Rabies Certificate and a rabies tag. You will need these items to license your dog in your city or county.

Below, you can find information about licensing your dog. If your city is not listed, please check with your local animal services or police department.

Berkeley

www.ci.berkeley.ca.us

Oakland

www.petdata.com/for-pet-owners/oak

Albany

www.albanyca.org/index.aspx?page=971

Emeryville

www.ci.emeryville.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=293

Contra Costa County

www.licensepet.com/contracosta

San Francisco

www.sfgov2.org/index.aspx?page=1047