



## WHY DOGS ARE GIVEN

In a recent study conducted by the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy (NCPSP) and published in the July issue of the Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science (JAAWS), researchers went into 12

selected animal shelters in the United States for one year to find out why.

The results of the study show that the top seven reasons for relinquishment for both dogs and cats are the same. "These commonalities suggest that there may be similar ways to address relinquishment in dogs and cats," says Pam Burney, NCPSP president. "For people who work in a shelter all day, there isn't always time to look at these issues. We have impressions of what's happening, but now we have objective data that will help us develop specific programs to address the issues that have been identified."

### Top 10 Reasons for Relinquishment

Moving (7%)

Landlord not allowing pet (6%)

Too many animals in household (4%)

Cost of pet maintenance (5%)

Owner having personal problems (4%)

Inadequate facilities (4%)

No homes available for litter mates (3%)

Having no time for pet (4%)



## DOG FACTS



Puppies have 28 teeth and normal adult dogs have 42.

Dogs chase their tails for a variety of reasons: curiosity, exercise, anxiety, predatory instinct or, they might have fleas! If your dog is chasing his tail excessively, talk with your vet.

Dalmatian puppies are pure white when they are born and develop their spots as they grow older.

Dogs and humans have the same type of slow wave sleep (SWS) and rapid eye movement (REM) and during this REM stage dogs can dream. The twitching and paw movements that occur during their sleep are signs that your pet is dreaming.

Dogs' eyes contain a special membrane, called the tapetum lucidum, which allows them to see in the dark.

A large breed dog's resting heart beats between 60 and 100 times per minute, and a small dog breed's heart beats between 100-140. Comparatively, a resting human heart beats 60-100 times per minute.

A dog's normal temperature is between 101 and 102.5 degrees Fahrenheit.

Unlike humans who sweat everywhere, dogs only sweat through the pads of their feet.

Dogs have three eyelids, an upper lid, a lower lid and the third lid, called a nictitating membrane or "haw," which helps keep the eye moist and protected.

62% of U.S. households own a pet, which equates to 72.9 million homes.

Dogs' noses secrete a thin layer of mucous that helps them absorb scent. They then lick their noses to sample the scent through their mouth.

It's a myth that dogs only see in black and white. In fact, it's believed that dogs see primarily in blue, greenish-yellow, yellow and various shades of gray.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF TUOLUMNE COUNTY

# ADOPTING A SHELTER DOG



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# ADOPTION TIPS FOR BRINGING YOUR NEW DOG HOME



The first few days in your home are special and critical for a pet. Your new dog will be confused about where he/she is and what to expect from you. Setting up some clear structure with your family for your dog will be paramount in making as smooth a transition as possible.

## Before You Bring Your Dog Home:

Determine where your dog will be spending most of his/her time. Because he/she will be under a lot of stress with the change of environment (from shelter or foster home to your house), he/she may forget any housebreaking (if any) he's/she's learned. Often a kitchen will work best for easy clean-up.

If you plan on crate training your dog, be sure to have a crate set-up and ready to go for when you bring your new dog home.

Dog-proof the area where your pooch will spend most of his/her time during the first few months. This may mean taping loose electrical cords to baseboards; storing household chemicals on high shelves; removing plants, rugs, and breakables; setting up the crate, and installing baby gates.

Training your dog will start the first moment you have him/her. Take time to create a vocabulary list everyone will use when giving your dog directions. This will help prevent confusion and help your dog learn his/her commands more quickly.

## First Day:

We know moving is stressful — and your new dog feels the same way! **Give him/her time to acclimate to**

**your home and family** before introducing him/her to strangers. Make sure children know how to approach the dog without overwhelming him/her.

When you pick up your dog, remember to ask what and when he/she was fed. Replicate that schedule for at least the first few days to avoid gastric distress. If you wish to switch to a different brand, do so over a period of about a week by adding one part new food to three parts of the old for several days; then switch to half new food, half old, and then one part old to three parts new.

On the way home, your dog should be safely secured, preferably in a crate. Some dogs find car trips stressful, so having him/her in a safe place will make the trip home easier on him/her and you.

Once home, take him/her to his/her toileting area immediately and spend a good amount of time with him/her so he/she will get used to the area and relieve himself/herself. Even if your dog does relieve himself/herself during this time, be prepared for accidents.

Coming into a new home with new people, new smells and new sounds will throw even the most housebroken dog off-track, so be ready just in case.

If you plan on crate training your dog, leave the crate open so that he/she can go in whenever he/she feels like it in case he/she gets overwhelmed.

From there, start your schedule of feeding, toileting and play/exercise. From Day One, your dog will need family time and brief periods of solitary confinement. Don't give in and comfort him/her if he/she whines when left alone. Instead, give him/her attention for good behavior, such as chewing on a toy or resting quietly.

For the first few days, remain calm and quiet around your dog, limiting too much excitement (such as the dog park or neighborhood children). Not only will this allow your dog to settle in easier, it will give you more one-on-one time to get to know him/her and his/her likes/dislikes.

If he/she came from another home, objects like leashes, hands, rolled up newspapers and magazines, feet, chairs, and sticks are just some of the pieces of "training equipment" that may have been used on this dog. Words like "come here" and "lie down" may bring forth a reaction other than the one you expect. Or maybe he/she led a sheltered life and was never socialized to children or

sidewalk activity. This dog may be the product of a never-ending series of scrambled communications and unreal expectations that will require patience on your part.

People often say they don't see their dog's true personality until several weeks after adoption. Your dog will be a bit uneasy at first as he/she gets to know you. Be patient and understanding while also keeping to the schedule you intend to maintain for feeding, walks, etc. This schedule will show your dog what is expected of him/her as well as what he/she can expect from you.

After discussing it with your veterinarian to ensure your dog has all the necessary vaccines, you may wish to take your dog to group training classes or the dog park. Pay close attention to your dog's body language to be sure he's/she's having a good time, and is not fearful or a dog park bully.

To have a long and happy life together with your dog, stick to the original schedule you created, ensuring your dog always has the food, potty time and attention he/she needs. You'll be bonded in no time!

If you encounter behavior issues you are unfamiliar with, ask your veterinarian for a trainer recommendation. Select a trainer who uses positive-reinforcement techniques to help you and your dog overcome these behavior obstacles.

Congratulations! If you follow these tips, you'll be on your way to having a well-adjusted canine family member.

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