

Caring for your Adopted Dog





Congratulations on your adoption! Bringing a new dog into your home is a new and exciting experience! Below are some tips on how to properly care for your new dog.

What to Feed your Dog

GTHS is sponsored by Royal Canin. At our shelter we feed our dogs at 7:30am and 4pm. We recommend feeding your dog 2-3 times a day (depending on your dog's age, the regularity of a feeding schedule will help with housetraining and behaviour modification. It is important to be somewhat flexible with the timing of your dog's feeding schedule though, to avoid your dog 'demanding' food and / or panicking if the feeding does not happen to the exact minute every day.

Transitioning the Diet

Although we are sponsored by Royal Canin, you are welcome to transition to a new diet or perhaps from the diet your other dogs are currently eating. A slow transition is important for reducing the occurrence of dietary upsets. This process is simply outlined in your Royal Canin resource booklet in your adoption kit. We recommend choosing a dog food that uses high quality ingredients and avoids fillers. A visit to your local pet store or veterinary clinic can help you decide which food is best for your pet.

Our Commitment to You

Ensuring our adopted dogs and puppies live long and healthy lives is our passion. Should you run into problems or have questions down the road, please don't hesitate to call us for advice. We have a wealth of resources at our disposal and would be happy to help you in any way we can.

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In addition, you can always visit our website at www.gths.ca for some great tips on how to introduce your new dog into your home and to new stimulant!



Housetraining Your New Dog

A puppy is a baby, and as much as we'd love them to come 'programmed', they don't! Your dog will relieve itself anywhere, anytime. Similarly, a newly adopted adult dog will be unfamiliar with your home and routine, and may not understand where he should "go"! Housetraining, or teaching your dog to go outside to relieve himself, is an important lesson your dog may not already know and is looking to be taught!

It is up to you, the new parent, to housetrain your new puppy or dog with patience, love and understanding.

Crate Training

There will always be the debate for and against crate training, so why don't we tell you our opinion; some dogs do well in a crate, and some dogs don't.

Some personality types find comfort and security in having their very own 'safe spot' with their toys and familiar smells in it. Other dogs feel uncomfortable being confined in a small space and / or acclimatize much faster in a small room or to having the 'run of the house'.

If you are unsure which category your dog falls into, please reach out to our resources for aid in determining this.

Housetraining

On average, puppies can hold their bladders one hour for every month they have been alive, plus one hour. For example, if you have a three month old puppy, he can wait $3 + 1 = 4$ hours (while in his crate). If you work longer than this, the best solution is to have someone (a neighbour, a relative, a dog walker) come in at an appropriate time to let your dog out. Dogs will not soil in their sleeping area unless they have absolutely no other option.

Supervision is the key to housetraining. While you are at home, your dog must be supervised. Trailing a leash in the home is a great technique in being able to monitor your dog at all times, as the majority of accidents happen when your dog wanders off. The leash also gives you the ability to lead your dog outside should they give you an indication that they need to 'go' or, if they have already started.

Do not 'rub your dog's nose in it' this will not help subsequent occurrences and will only hurt the bond between you and your dog.

Developing A Schedule

Dogs are routine animals by nature. You will find your dog is more relaxed when their day is predictable. Avoid being too ridged with your dog's schedule



Exercise & Walking

Time together, especially active time together, provides an opportunity for dog and owner to interact and establish mutual communication and a strong bond of affection.

Obedience Training

Obedience training is an excellent tool for developing a relationship with your dog while helping to learn some basic manners. Multi dog classes help to teach your dog how to learn while other dogs are present. This is an invaluable lesson. Obedience classes are held regularly at GTHS with Jodie Hawker. Please visit our website or call the shelter at (705) 445 -5204 ext. 0 for more information.

Private Lessons with a Certified Dog Trainer

You have a list provided in your adoption package of GTHS endorsed trainers. This list of Positive Reinforcement trainers varies from group classes, dog walkers, obedience trainers, and behaviour consultants.

Choosing a Crate

A crate is a dog's very own special place. When you choose a crate, be sure to select the correct size for your dog. The crate must be large enough for the adult dog to stand up straight, turn around and lie down in a stretched position. Crates usually come in two varieties: fiberglass and metal. A fiberglass crate will provide a greater sense of security for your dog; a metal crate is collapsible and will allow for better circulation.

Introducing Your Dog to the Crate

For crate training to be most successful, your dog must be properly introduced to the crate. Crate training is most successful when introduced day one (or two) of your dog entering the home. Introducing your dog to the crate should be positive and fun.

Your dog needs to feel the crate is a happy, secure place. Select a command such as "Into your house" to direct your dog into its crate.

Encourage your dog to enter by tossing treats and toys into the crate and feeding them their meal in the crate.

Do not attempt to close the door until your dog is readily entering the crate on their own.

Never place your dog in the crate after disciplining him.

Once your dog enters readily, close the door for a minute or two while you are in view and silent.

When you let your dog out don't make big deal about the crate, a simple, 'good dog' will do.

Increase duration and decrease visibility as your dog acclimatizes.



Do not let your dog out when he whines or barks. By doing so, your dog is learning that by barking / carrying on, this allows them out of the crate. Once your dog relaxes for at least one minute (after whining or barking), allow them out of the crate.

Provide your dog with multiple 'quiet times' throughout the day while you are home in order to reinforce the crate as a safe, comfortable, and regular place to relax.

The Golden Rules of Crate Training:

- Your dog's crate is not intended for his primary housing. When you are at home, your dog should be (mostly) in your company.
- Never use the crate as a means of punishment.
- Place the crate in a quiet area of the home. Do not place them in front of the window, etc. as you are aiming to provide stimulant control.
- Do not leave a collar or tag on your dog when he is in the crate. It may catch on the bars and cause injury to your dog.

Have Patience

This is the most important key to helping your new family member settle in. Understand that your shelter dog may be feeling anxious and out of place in their new home. As much as we'd love them to be, they're not programmed with the commands we'd like them to respond to, or with the knowledge of the rules of the house. They will require your guidance and leadership in order to be the best dog we know they can be! You have an exciting opportunity to learn so much more about your new family member than we could ever tell you. It takes time to help a shelter dog become a family pet, what an exciting adventure!



**The Georgian Triangle Humane Society is proud to
feed and recommend Royal Canin**

***Royal Canin products can be found at the following local
retailers:***

Collingwood: Pet Valu, 99 Balsam Street

Global Pet Foods, 20 Balsam Street

Thornbury: Mullins Pet Market, 99 King Street

Meaford: Mullins Pet Market, 365 Sykes Street South

Wasaga Beach: Global Pet Foods, 3 Market Lane



Pet Valu, 707 River Road West

Markdale: Mullins Pet Market, 217 Toronto Street South

