

# CARING FOR YOUR NEWLY ADOPTED DOG



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**Congratulations on adopting your new companion. You've taken on a very special challenge - to give a lifelong, secure home to an animal in need. The work of the Bow Valley SPCA does not end when you take your pet home. We are also committed to helping you establish a good relationship with your new companion. Please read thoroughly all the information included in your adoption kit.**

## **CHAPTER 1 Necessary Equipment and Supplies**

The following is a list of equipment and supplies you'll need as you prepare for your new arrival. Our work does not end when you take your pet home. We are also committed to helping you establish a good relationship with your new companion. Please read thoroughly all the information included in your adoption kit.

- Food and water bowls.
- Bed with washable bedding placed in a quiet, draft-free area.
- Adjustable collar with identification tag(s).
- Nylon or leather leash, 1.25 to 1.85 metres (4 to 6 feet) in length.
- Safe chewing toys made of rawhide or hard nylon (large enough not to be swallowed).
- Grooming tools such as a comb, brush, nail clippers, dog shampoo, toothbrush and dog toothpaste.
- "Pooper scooper" (small garden shovel, plastic bags).
- Insulated doghouse for dogs spending time outdoors.
- Training tools (books on dog training, clicker, treats).
- Crate for House training

Be prepared before you bring your pet home. This will reduce confusion and help the transition for everyone.

- Have all members of your household decide on the rules your new dog will have to obey.
- Decide who will be doing what in terms of care for the dog (feeding, walking, grooming). Do not give total responsibility for a dog to a child. Share tasks.
- Establish rules for handling the dog. Make sure everyone knows how to pick up the dog safely. Emphasize that an eating or sleeping dog is not to be disturbed.
- Purchase supplies and dog-proof your home ahead of time.

Your new dog will not automatically know what is off limits and so you must remove all temptation from their path.

- Prevent access to off-limit areas such as certain rooms, stairs, and furniture.
- Remove objects which may be damaged by your dog or which may injure your dog (string, yarn, drapery cords, rubber bands, corks, plastic). Puppies will chew anything.
- Some houseplants are poisonous, (*see Common Poisonous Plants*).
- Prevent access to poisons such as disinfectants, cleansers, antifreeze, weed killers, insecticides and other chemicals.
- Prevent access to electrical cords especially if you're bringing home a puppy.
- Prevent access to children's toys, garbage, human food, medicine and sharp tools.

One of the first things you should do with your new pet before you take them home is to fit him or her with a new collar and leash. This will prevent any attempts at escaping on the way to and from the car.

- The best place for your dog to ride is in a kennel inside your car. The next best place is in the back seat with the leash securely fastened to her collar to prevent a sudden escape. Adjustable seat belts are available for pets.
- Never transport your dog in the back of an open pickup truck without having him properly secured.
- Do not leave your pet unattended in the car even for a few minutes, especially on a warm day.
- Do not stop to shop or take your new pet visiting. Go directly home.
- Take your pet from the car by carrying him or by controlling him on their leash.
- As soon as you arrive home, take your dog to the area of the yard that will be the permanent toilet area. Praise your dog enthusiastically when she urinates or defecates in this area.



**THE FIRST FEW HOURS... WHAT TO EXPECT... ONCE YOU GET HOME!**

## CHAPTER 2 Getting Settled

Adoption is extremely rewarding, as you have saved a life, but remember this dog is unlike any other dog you have ever met. This dog comes with a different background and personality. Do not compare this dog to any other, and help them mold into a well mannered, well socialized, happy and loved member of your family. Each dog is an individual.

- Welcome your dog calmly and without a lot of attention or demands. Speak in quiet, reassuring tones. Always supervise children when they are around the dog. Stress the importance of being quiet and gentle. Your dog may be frightened by sudden movements, loud noises or rough handling. Playtime can come later. Allow your dog to meet the family members one at a time.
- The first few hours can be the most confusing and frightening time for a new dog. While things are exciting for you, the dog sees things differently and may exhibit signs of stress. Stress signals include panting, yawning, stretching, lip licking, pacing and loss of appetite.
- Show the dog the location of her bed and dishes. Do not offer large amounts of food or water for the first hour. Excited dogs – especially puppies – often gulp too much food and then throw up. Providing toys can help relieve stress through chewing.
- Make sure that everything has a positive twist for the dog and do not force him into human interaction or into uncomfortable situations.
- Use lots of treats and kind words for reassurance.
- Make sure you give him plenty of space and quiet time to relax, adjust and explore. Crates are recommended for allowing him to adjust on his own terms, do not be afraid to use one when he cannot be supervised.
- Take it easy! Hold off on very long walks, dog parks and intense outings until he is comfortable with you and the home situation. Leash walk your dog, even in a fenced yard; a large open area may be too intimidating or the strangeness of a new environment could cause the dog to escape!
- Pets already in the house would have been introduced at the Carla Cumming Sojonky Adoption Centre but re-introducing them should be done under the supervision of adults and both dogs should be on leashes or confined in a fenced area. Expect some sniffing, tail wagging, growling and marking behaviour (repeated urination, usually one dog then the other urinating on the same spot). If one dog becomes overly aggressive, separate them and try again later (*see Introducing Pets to Each Other*).
- Keep her safe. All environments and people are new, keeping your dog secure is essential. Make sure doors stay closed (put signs on doors warning visitors and family members that there is a new dog in the house; you can even put baby gates across the doors to prevent the dog from bolting when doors open).
- Start thinking of a name if you have not already chosen one. You may want to observe your new pet for several hours before you find the right name. Remember, your dog will learn her name quickly and have it for her entire life, so choose carefully. Adult dogs can learn a new name as well as a puppy can.
- Once a name has been chosen, talk to the animal and repeat her name frequently while they are eating, being groomed and petted. They will learn to identify the sound with themselves.
- Micromanage his every move. Remember, the less mistakes he makes now, the more success he will have later.
- Set rules, don't spoil! Create house rules for your new companion (i.e. No counter surfing, chewing on shoes, drinking out of toilets, etc). Make the rules known to the whole family, so they too understand your new companion's limits. Be firm, yet reward for positive behaviours constantly.

- Structure your dog's day. If you create a “routine” that the dog can follow, then she will be much happier in her ability to predict certain events such as feeding and walks. Housebreaking becomes much easier with structure.
- Regular daily exercise and mental stimulation is essential. On leash walks are recommended until you have bonded with your new pet and are assured that they will come when called.

### **CHAPTER 3**

#### **THE FIRST NIGHT AND BEYOND**

For your dog, it is a canine privilege to inhabit his leader's den. Time at night in the bedroom with the owner is a time for extended contact without demands. While uneventful, this time together builds trust and confidence between you and your dog. Consider moving your dog's bed or a crate to a place in the bedroom at night. This will help with house training since you will be able to hear your dog if he is 'asking' to go outside (*see House training*).

If you would prefer your pet not sleep in your bedroom, choose a small confined area for your dog to stay in. A new puppy or dog should not have the complete run of the house right away.

- Think twice before allowing your new pet to sleep on your bed. This habit is a difficult one to break later.
- A puppy may be comforted by a warm water bottle and a ticking clock, each wrapped in a towel.
- Give your new dog time to adjust. Several quick clean-ups may be necessary during the first few days with your new dog. Puppies are still in training, but even house trained animals can be expected to make a few mistakes. Regular trips outdoors every few hours will help train any new dog (*see House training*).
- It may take several weeks for your dog to feel comfortable in his new home. He may display behaviour problems during the first days. If these problems are handled with understanding and consistency, they will likely disappear. He may go through a period of testing his boundaries when he feels more settled. Simply enforce your rules with persistence and life will return to normal. This may be a good time to enroll in training classes.

Remember, this is an adjustment period for your dog as they have just undergone a stressful period in their lives. Yes, she is safe and sound in your home now, but she may have been abandoned or lost or given up by her last family. She may have been recently separated from her mother and littermates. She may even have been abused. Do not forget she spent some time in our Adoption Centre and although it provides warmth, good food and care, the Centre is full of uncertainty and strange smells, people and noises.

Be consistent and clear in your expectations. Most importantly, give your dog time to adjust.

It takes time – at least three months – to establish a trusting relationship! Be patient and you will be rewarded with a life-long friend.

#### **CHAPTER 4**

### **INTRODUCING PETS TO EACH OTHER**

Introduce your new dog to other family pets slowly. The time it takes for the new animal to settle in will depend on the animal. Your current pet may view the newcomer as a threat and acceptance may take time.

The ability of pets to get along together in the same household depends on their individual personalities. As each animal assesses and establishes their place in relation to the other animal(s), there may be a few scuffles. As long as they are supervised and neither animal is in danger of injury, do not interrupt. Do not leave the animals together without supervision until you are certain of their compatibility.

- Pets already in the house would have been introduced at the Carla Cumming Sojony Adoption Centre, but re-introducing them should be done under the supervision of adults and on neutral territory.
- It may be advisable to wait until after your complimentary vet exam, before introducing the dogs.
- Expect some sniffing, tail wagging, growling and marking behaviour (repeated urination, usually one dog then the other urinating on the same spot).
- If one dog becomes overly aggressive, separate them and try again later. In case a fight erupts, have a bucket of water or a hose nearby. Throwing water on the dogs or spraying them may distract them long enough for you to intervene. Be very careful. Do not wet the dogs outside in winter. A loud noise such as a clap and a yell may also be distraction enough.
- Praise appropriate behaviour.
- Keep both dogs on leashes for the first few days so you can correct unacceptable behaviour immediately (*see Training*).
- Be sure each dog has their own bowls, toys and sleeping area since competition over these things is natural.
- Do not disrupt your established dog's feeding or exercise routines.
- With time, most dogs will learn to live with each other and become close friends.

### **Introducing a Dog to a Cat**

- Introduce the new dog to the cat under adult supervision.
- Keep your dog on a leash. Do not allow him to show any aggressive behaviour toward the cat.
- The cat may hide. Give him time to gain confidence and decide when to face the new family addition.
- Do not leave pets together unsupervised until they have accepted each other. This may take several hours, several days or even a few weeks.
- Many pets become companions. Others simply tolerate each other.
- Allow the cat to have vertical spaces to "escape" to.
- Initially place the cat in a separate room; allow them to be introduced via smell. Let the two pets meet under a closed door.
- Provide treats/positive reinforcement when introductions are going well.
- Elevate the cat's feeding station



### **Introducing a Dog to Caged Pets**

Some dogs can eventually be trusted around caged pets such as rabbits and gerbils, but some cannot. The first encounters between pets should be supervised. Some caged pets such as chinchillas and birds may be severely frightened by the presence of a dog. If this is the case, keep the caged pet in a room your dog can not get into.

Some dogs have a tendency to hunt, some do not. Those who possess the hunting instinct will be dangerous to most caged pets. It may not necessarily be a characteristic of a specific breed. Again use caution.

When, and if, you think your new dog can be trusted around your caged pet, introduce them slowly to each other.

- Keep the dog on the leash and the caged pet in the cage.
- Allow the dog to sniff the cage. Watch for signs of aggression from either pet. Look for signs of stress or anxiety from the caged pet.
- Keep encounters short at first (5 minutes). Allow your caged pet to rest quietly afterwards.
- If you usually take your caged pet out of the cage, hold it in your hand. Allow the dog to investigate from a distance while still on his leash.
- When you are sure there will be no aggressive encounters, then – and only then – allow the animals to be together. Always supervise these encounters.
- Dogs and other animals have been known to become great friends. Be cautious in the beginning. It could mean the difference between life and death for your caged pet.



## CHAPTER 5 DOGS AND CHILDREN

The relationship between children and dogs can be wonderful, but not always natural. Both the dog and the child need to learn to respect each other.

- Never leave children unattended with a new pet.
- Teach children the proper method of handling your dog. A puppy or small dog should be held with one hand under her chest and one supporting her hindquarters.
- Teach children to stand still like a tree if the dog jumps up, children should never run away from a dog as this will encourage the dog to chase them.
- Children must not disturb the dog when they are eating or sleeping.
- Teach the dog to take treats gently from all family members.
- Do not allow children to chase the dog around the house or yard. An excited, overwhelmed or cornered dog may bite in self-defense or become timid around children. Instead, encourage games of fetch or other activities where the child can interact with the dog in a calm, nonthreatening way.
- Teach children the difference between teasing your dog and playing with him.
- Do not allow children to assume full responsibility for the care of your dog. Everyone should share the responsibility.
- Immediately correct aggressive behaviour displayed by your dog (*see Training*).
- Allow the children and your dog to develop their own relationship. Encourage the children to learn more about their dog by reading books on dog care. The Public Library is a great resource.



## CHAPTER 6 THE OUTDOOR SHELTER

Alberta is a cold weather climate where conditions can change quickly. It is irresponsible for a owners not to consider weather as a major factor in the care and keeping of their animals. If your dog will be spending several hours at a time outside, they must have adequate protection. A carefully designed doghouse with fresh bedding is necessary.

- **IMPORTANT:** There are many breeds of dogs that should not be left outside in winter regardless of proper sheltering. Small breed dogs and many short haired dogs can only be left outside for short periods of time (15 minutes maximum at a time) in winter and cannot tolerate temperatures less than 0C even when provided with an insulated shelter. *A mild winter day is still below freezing.*
- Young puppies should **not be** left outside at an early age because of their inability to tolerate cold (regardless of breed). Young animals are still growing and inadequate cold weather care can cause hardship. Ensure extra precautions and care are given during your dog's first winter.
- During the summer, remember shade is an important factor if your dog. Make sure the shelter is placed under a tree or in an area of the yard that is predominantly shaded through the hottest part of the day.
- Supply fresh, clean water. Don't use metal containers in the winter. Consider heated buckets for a winter source of water. Better yet, feed and give water to your dog indoors.
- Your dog needs fresh, clean, dry bedding. Remove and clean bedding frequently and keep it parasite free.
- The toys you give your dog must be safe. Toys such as large indestructible ball, big rope toys and rawhides will help keep your dog entertained until you return.

Remember, your dog will be healthier and happier if you allow him/her to live in your home. The Bow Valley SPCA strongly believes a pet should be a part of your life. Companionship is as important as food, water and shelter.



## **Chapter 7 Crate Training**

Every year millions of dogs are surrendered to pounds and Humane Societies because they are believed to be “untrainable”. Their “bad behaviour” includes chewing furniture and shoes, barking too much and ignoring commands- all problems that are not permanent and are easily corrected if you take the time to correct them.

As difficult as it may be to remember, your dog is NOT a little person! You cannot reason with a dog to get him to behave the way you would like him to. Even though they have shared our homes for thousands of years, they still retain many of the instincts and characteristics of the wild dogs from which they descend. Having been bred from an ancestral wolf, dogs are both pack and den animals. For this reason, most dogs will accept a crate as part of their lifestyle. Like a baby’s playpen, a crate is a safe place for the dog to stay when you are unable to keep an eye on him.

### **Choosing a Crate**

A crate is a dog’s very own special place, a haven, a retreat, and a familiar secure den! When you choose a crate, be sure to select the correct size. The crate must be large enough for the ADULT dog to stand up straight (without touching his head on the roof), turn around, and lie down in a stretched position. Crates usually come in 2 different varieties: fiberglass or metal. A fiberglass crate will provide a greater sense of security for your dog while a metal crate is collapsible and will allow for better air circulation.

### **Introducing Your Dog**

For crate training to be the most successful, your dog must be properly introduced. Your crate training should begin as soon as you bring your new dog home. Equip the crate with water and a blanket or towel. Start off slowly and increase the time gradually. Place the crate out of the way, but not out of the action: your dog is one of the family and needs to feel that he is not being banished when confined in his crate.

Introducing your dog to the crate should be positive and fun. NEVER PLACE YOUR DOG IN HIS CRATE AFTER DISCIPLINING HIM. Your dog needs to feel that his crate is a happy, secure place. Select a command such as “Into your house”. Encourage him to enter by tossing a treat into the crate. Leave the door open at first. Once your dog enters readily, close the door for a few minutes and praise him with a cheerful, positive voice. Leave the dog with a special chew toy, just for when he is in their crate. Giving your dog breakfast or dinner in the crate can also help with the pet’s adjustment.

If your dog seems apprehensive about the crate try breaking the introduction into smaller parts. For example: take the crate apart and introduce the bottom of the crate first, allow him to adjust for a few days, then add the top-wait a few more days, then add the door but leave it open. If the dog seems comfortable at this point, you can begin closing the door for short periods and gradually increase the length of time that the door is closed.

Scheduling is very important. Puppies should not be crated for more than 3 hours a day at a time: they cannot be expected to hold their small bowels and bladders for more than a couple of hours. Adult dogs should not be crated for more than 8 hours. Any complaining the dog may do at the beginning is not usually caused by the crate but by the new controls set by this unfamiliar environment. DO NOT let her out when she is whining or complaining. Doing so will reward bad behaviour. When she settles down for 5 minutes, release her from the crate. Once you feel your dog can be left on her own, you may practice leaving the dog alone for short periods of time.

Your dog's crate is a tool, which should allow you to have a smoother, happier relationship with your dog. It is NOT intended as a place to leave your dog and ignore her. Although crate training is a very effective method of training your dog, it may not be the answer to every behaviour problem your dog might exhibit.

If your dog seems to be taking a long time to come around, DO NOT GIVE UP! Your dog can be trained to be a fastidious member of the household regardless of her age. Just be sure to give her every chance to do the right thing at the right time in the right place and let them know you love them for it!

### **THE GOLDEN RULES OF CRATE TRAINING**

- The crate belongs to your dog. It should be made off-limits to children.
- Never let the dog out when he is whining. Giving in will make it more and more difficult to train him. Remember, you are doing your dog a favour by keeping him safe and out of trouble when you are unable to supervise.
- You are the “pack leader” and you are in charge. Your dog needs to learn this!
- The crate is not intended for long hours of use. When you are at home your dog needs to be out of his “house” and in your company.
- NEVER USE THE CRATE AS PUNISHMENT.
- Do not place the crate in a draft or in direct sunlight.
- Do not leave a collar or tag on your dog when he/she is in the crate. It may catch on the bars and cause injury.



## **CHAPTER 8 Feeding Your Dog**

### **What to Feed**

People commonly make the mistake of feeding their dogs table scraps or too many treats. Your dog will become overweight and will develop annoying behaviours such as begging or refusing to eat his regular food. Never let your dog beg for food. He must earn rewards at the appropriate times (such as training). Follow the feeding guidelines on the product label, but because individual dogs can vary in their energy requirements, you may need to adjust feeding levels. The ideal body condition for your dog is as follows: You should be able to feel his ribs with some pressure from your hands. When viewed from above, your dog's chest should be wider than his abdomen and the abdomen should be tucked up when viewed from the side.

Your vet can help you choose the food that best suits your dog's age, breed, and condition. A nutritionally balanced and complete diet includes the correct amounts of fats, proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals. All-meat diets do not provide the complete nutrition a dog needs; they lack many vitamins and calcium, have an excess of protein and fat, and an improper ratio of calcium to phosphorous which affects bone growth. If you are changing dog foods, do so gradually over a week-mixing the new with the old. Provide plenty of fresh water for your dog at all times.

Very simply, dogs are not finicky eaters by nature. A balanced meal of good quality, commercially prepared dog food (preferably dry) can be served every day of the year, along with an occasional treat.

### **Canned vs. Dry**

Dry food or kibble is generally the least expensive and the most convenient food to use. Not only is it nutritionally balanced but it also helps to keep teeth and gums healthy. Dogs raised on dry food have fewer intestinal upsets and problems with weight gain. Dog food is sold by weight, so when you buy canned food or semi-moist, consider how much money you are paying for water. Canned food is mostly water, and it is higher in calories and fat. Semi-moist are about half water and contain a lot of salt and sugar. However, canned and semi-moist foods are generally more appealing to dogs. You can add them to dry rations to make them more palatable. Canned foods spoil if left out. Allow refrigerated canned food to reach room temperature before serving.

### **Premium vs. Economy**

Feed high quality food. Look for foods with a protein content of 26% or higher. Most commercial pet foods are generally good. However, there can be extreme variations in their nutritional quality. One dog may do well on a certain brand, while another dog may not. Ask your veterinarian for advice. Also, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association has a program called the CVMA Pet Food Certification Program. If a brand of pet food has the CVMA seal of certification, it has been tested and approved to meet minimum nutritional standards. This is a voluntary program, so not all brands have

been tested. Economy dog foods will not save you money. Your dog will digest more of the high quality food and will not need to eat as much as an economy brand. Economy foods have lower energy values and poorer digestibility which means that most of the food will not be absorbed and will pass right through your dog's system and into the yard. Premium foods are better for your dog's health, too, since they are made from higher quality ingredients and are nutritionally balanced and complete. Specialized diets are available to meet specific medical requirements. Puppies, dogs that are pregnant, suffering from stress, need to lose weight or are sick, may require a special diet.

### **Foods to Avoid**

Onions, chocolate, grapes and raisins should be avoided as they contain ingredients that can kill a dog. Bones, cooked or uncooked, can cause many problems such as vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, intestinal blockages and internal punctures. To be safe, do not allow your dog to chew bones. Substitute other chewables such as rawhide chew toys or nylon bones. Supplements can be harmful if given incorrectly, so always consult your vet first. A high quality dog food will give your dog the nutrition she needs. Changes in diet can cause diarrhea. If you must change your dog's food, do it gradually over several days. Mix  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the new brand with  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the previous brand for a few days; then half and half; then  $\frac{3}{4}$  new and  $\frac{1}{4}$  previous and finally, 100% new food. Milk can cause diarrhea in some dogs because when they mature they lose the enzyme lactase, which breaks down the lactose in milk. Even though your dog may enjoy milk, avoid potential stomach upset and do not offer it. Feeding eggs to your dog provides no additional benefits to an already well balanced diet. Raw egg whites destroy an essential vitamin (biotin) and may also cause salmonella poisoning. Cats and dogs have very different nutrient requirements. Do not feed cat food to your dog.

### **Obesity**

Overweight dogs are prone to many health problems such as arthritis, back problems, breathing difficulties, circulation problems, high blood pressure, and heart disease. To prevent your dog from becoming obese, make sure he gets regular exercise, measure out the proper amount of food, and avoid too many treats and table scraps. An overfed puppy will develop too many fat cells and will grow to have a weight problem, so be aware of the dangers if you own a puppy. For your adult dog, you might consider a "light" dog food if weight gain is a problem. Talk to your vet about a healthy weight reduction plan, diet, and target weight.



## FEEDING PUPPIES

The higher levels of nutrients that puppies need are not available in adult dog food. Puppies, after they are weaned, do not need milk. Cow's milk can cause diarrhea and very soft stools. For the first few days after you bring your puppy home, feed the same food and use the feeding schedule he or she was on at the Adoption Centre. If you plan to change foods, introduce the new food gradually (7 to 10 days to switch foods completely).

### Schedule

Try to get the puppy on a set feeding schedule. Do not leave food out for the puppy so that he can eat whenever he wants. Too rapid weight gain can cause skeletal problems in larger and giant breeds, and obese puppies turn into obese dogs. It is best to let the puppy eat what he wants at *specific* times, and pick up the bowl after about 15 minutes. Remove uneaten portions of food when your puppy walks away from his dish. Puppies under 3 months old should be fed 4 times a day at regular intervals: morning, noon, evening and bedtime. At 3 months of age, you can eliminate the bedtime meal. At 6 months of age, you can eliminate the noon meal. Some larger breeds may continue growing up to the age of 24 months, so check with your vet to be sure.

A set feeding schedule means a regular "bathroom" schedule, and this will make housetraining easier and quicker. A puppy will probably need to urinate and defecate within the hour or so after feeding. Ensure that there is at least an hour of quiet time after each feeding because running and playing can lead to stomach upsets. Always have plenty of fresh water available. Remember, puppies need more water than adult dogs.

## FEEDING ADULTS

Feed two times daily, following the instructions on the product label. Dogs older than 8 years may need less food if they have become less active, and they may also need that amount spread out in 3 small feedings throughout the day.



## CHAPTER 9 GROOMING

Grooming refers to the external care of your dog. Pay attention to your dog's coat and skin, nails, eyes, teeth and ears. Whether your dog is longhaired, shorthaired, silky-haired or wirehaired, he/she needs to be groomed regularly.

Start grooming your dog within the first few days of their arrival home. Be sure to reward good behaviour during grooming.

- Grooming keeps your dog healthier and better looking and helps promote healthy skin and new coat growth.
- Grooming conditions your dog's coat and skin, reduces housecleaning bother and gives your dog regular, positive contact with you. It is an ideal bonding experience.
- Grooming gives you the opportunity to check your dog for rashes, cysts, warts, parasites and sores you might not otherwise notice.

### Coat and Skin Care

- Let your dog investigate the brush and comb before you use them. Once his curiosity has been satisfied, begin grooming him. Please be kind, patient and gentle with your dog while grooming him.
- Longhaired dogs should be combed first to remove tangles. Stainless steel combs are best.
- Brush your dog's hair in the direction of hair growth. Choose a brush suitable for your dog's coat. For longhaired dogs, choose a brush with longer, rounder bristles. For shorthaired dogs, choose a brush with short, flat bristles.
- Use your fingers on your shorthaired or coarse-haired dog to rough up his/her coat. This is important during shedding season (usually spring and fall). Then smooth the fur down and brush to remove excess fur.
- The best time to groom is after an exercise period. Your dog will be calm and you can check for burrs, foxtails, speargrass and ticks.

### Bathing

Bathe your dog only when necessary. Two to four times a year is usually enough for most dogs.

- Before you start the bath, take your dog for a walk. After her bath she will have to stay indoors until she is completely dry. This could take several hours for longhaired dogs.
- Get everything ready before you start. Once the dog is in the bath, you will not be able to leave her. You need dog shampoo (even baby shampoo can be too harsh), towels and a rubber mat for sure footing in the bath. Remove their collar.
- Place the dog gently in the tub. Talk to him/her reassuringly.
- Wet his/her coat thoroughly by scooping lukewarm water with a container or by gently spraying the dog with a hand-held shower nozzle.
- Apply the shampoo carefully. Do not get any water or suds in her eyes or ears. Start shampooing at the neck area and work backwards. Use a damp/wet cloth or sponge (without soap) to clean her face. Rinse well several times. Be sure all the soap is out of your dog's coat to prevent skin irritation.
- After rinsing, squeeze as much water as possible out of your dog's coat. Then dry with a large

bath towel. Some dogs can be dried using a blow dryer. Be careful not to accidentally burn the skin by holding the dryer too long in one place.

- Keep your dog in a warm, draft-free area until he/she is completely dry.

### **Nail and Foot Care**

- Clean your dog's paws regularly. Road salt can irritate her feet. Trim the hair between her toe pads if ice gathers there.
- Check your dog's nails regularly, including the dewclaws. These nails are located on the inside of the dog's legs. Some dogs have dewclaws on both their front and back legs. Some have them only on the front. Some dogs have had them surgically removed.
- If you hear clicking noises when your dog walks, her nails probably need trimming.
- Before you clip your dog's nails, ask your veterinarian for a demonstration. If you clip them too short, you could cut the 'quick' causing bleeding and pain. The quick contains blood vessels and nerves that grow down into the nail. On white nails, you can see the pink quick. You can not see it on brown or black nails.
- Use appropriately sized clippers.
- Apply cornstarch or a commercial product that stops bleeding to the tip of the nail if you accidentally cut the quick.

### **Eye Care**

- A small amount of discharge in the corner of your dog's eyes each morning is normal. Wipe it away with a piece of damp cloth or cotton ball.
- An abnormal discharge (mucous or discoloured) should be checked by your veterinarian.
- If your dog's third eyelid is visible it should be checked by your veterinarian.

### **Ear Care**

- Check your dog's ears for inflammation, dirt or a strong odour. If you notice any of these, talk to your veterinarian.
- Dogs with long, floppy ears and those with hair growing from the ear canal may need special care. Check with your veterinarian.
- A cotton ball and warm water can be used to wipe the inside of the ear flap and around the opening of the ear canal.

### **Dental Care**

- Have your dog's teeth checked once a year by your veterinarian.
- Regular chewing on rawhide or hard nylon bones helps remove tartar as does a specialized dental diet.
- You may want to try brushing your dog's teeth using a special toothpaste and your dog's own toothbrush. Do not use human toothpaste. Ask your veterinarian for instructions.
- Routine grooming should include checking the teeth and gums for tartar build up and for red, inflamed or receding gums.

### **Clipping**

- Some dogs need to have their coats thinned or clipped, especially in hot weather. This should be done by a professional groomer.



## **CHAPTER 10**

### **HOUSETRAINING YOUR NEW DOG**

Some concepts of housetraining dogs have changed in the past few years. It is now preferable not to “housebreak” but rather to “housetrain” a dog because we are not trying to break a habit, but rather to teach one. Paper training has been determined to be unnecessary and confusing--first teaching the dog to go in the house, and then teaching him that it is not allowed. Discouragement and scolding have been replaced by encouragement and praise.

However, all changes and new concepts aside, dogs are dogs and working with a dog’s natural behaviour is going to be more productive than working against it. Here are a few helpful tip strategies to set you and your adopted dog up for success:

#### **Getting Started**

If you wish to incorporate crate training into your housetraining routine, please see the section in this manual on Crate Training in addition to this section.

Every dog is unique and will respond slightly differently so customize your training to your dog. Have the family agree on a training procedure that you will all follow and a designated “bathroom area” that you will all take the dog to. The more similar you can make every bathroom experience, the more quickly the dog will recognize the pattern and provide the desired behaviour.

It is important to remember that puppies are not capable of holding their bowel or bladder for long periods of time until they are 4-6 months of age. Therefore, it is important to take your puppy out at least every 2 hours and try to follow a predictable schedule so that they have the opportunity to go outside before they have an accident. Adult dogs who have already been housetrained will need some orientation and a little refresher course on housetraining in their new environment. Adult dogs should go out at least every 5-7 hours.

Submissive urination or piddling should not be corrected. It is a reaction of a submissive dog. The dog has no control over it and correction tends to make the problem worse. Chances are the piddling will subside if you ignore it, and as the dog gains confidence.

Try to follow a regular schedule with your dog in terms of feeding times, play times and quiet times. Dogs are often stimulated to relieve themselves after sleeping, eating, drinking or chewing, and after playtimes or times of excitement.

While training your dog, take them out early in the morning, after each feeding, after each nap and in the evening before bed. Dogs will display certain behaviours before they eliminate. These may include sniffing the ground, circling with the head held low, squatting, barking, whining or scratching.

When you take your dog out, wait with them while they do their business so that you can enthusiastically praise them afterwards. Do not praise them while they are going or they may get distracted and forget what they are doing. Along with praise you may want to involve using clicker training to click and treat the dog after elimination.

#### **The Next Step**

When elimination behaviour becomes more consistent, you may wish to introduce a key phrase such as “hurry up” right before you know your dog is going to eliminate. This can be used later to let the dog know that this is a good time and place to relieve themselves when you take them for a walk or to anyplace other than their familiar home environment.

Eventually, your dog will be aware of when he needs to go out and will automatically go to the door to be let out. Some dogs will bark or whine to let you know they are waiting, but others may just wait for you to notice them. You may want to involve clicker training at this point to teach the dog to ring a bell by the door or some other specific behaviour to inform you that he needs to go out.

### **When Accidents Occur**

Please remember that even with the best training, accidents may occur. If you catch your dog “in the act”, tell them NO. Pick them up or lead them out to the bathroom area and praise them as usual after they complete their business. Focus on the success, not the failure.

If you discover an accident after the fact, clean it up while the dog is not watching. Do not scold the dog and especially do not rub their nose in it. Dogs will not associate the current scolding or punishment with the original act which took place earlier. This only leaves the dog fearful and confused and will not help the training process in any way. Consistency, patience and praise are the keys to ensuring that housetraining is easy and successful. Your dog loves to please you, and only needs to be shown how.

If your properly trained adult dog has an accident, please ensure it is not due to an illness, infirmity or parasite. If accidents continue to occur with no associated health condition, consult your veterinarian for advice on further training or treatment options.

## **CHAPTER 11**



## DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOUR IN DOGS

Most dogs have the potential to behave in a destructive manner. Please understand that the animal you have selected to become part of your family may misbehave and will need your UNDERSTANDING and PATIENCE.

There are two major causes for destructive behaviour: boredom and “separation anxiety.” Separation anxiety is a term used to describe the insecure behaviour of a dog too dependent upon its owner who becomes destructive in the owner's absence. Separation anxiety is also common in dogs that have been abandoned or mistreated.

Too many dogs are given up for adoption because of destructive behaviour, usually without any effort by the owner to change or improve the behaviour. Accepting the responsibility of owning a dog means a person must be prepared to deal with destructive situations.

- Give the dog rigorous, tiring exercise before you leave your home. This may require more time and effort from you, but it is necessary in order to help the dog.
- Make all home departures and arrivals uneventful. Avoid getting the dog excited at these times. Most destructive behaviour occurs within the first and last half hours the dog is alone. Usually, this is due to the anxiety brought on by the excitement that usually surrounds this time. Plan a play session for the dog a half hour AFTER arriving home.
- Never reprimand unless you have caught the dog in the act of being destructive. Punishing your dog upon your return for something done in your absence will only serve to increase the dog's anxiety and confusion and will hinder any progress you have already made.
- Purchase a crate for your dog to stay in while you are away from home or are unable to keep an eye on the dog (*see Crate Training*).
- Leave a radio on and tuned to a soft music/talk station. The sound of soft human voices and music has a calming effect on dogs.
- Consult a veterinarian about your dog's diet. Foods that are too high in protein and/or lack other necessary nutrients may have an effect on your dog's behaviour.
- Avoid any “tug-o-war” type games with your dog. Activity of this sort may encourage chewing behaviour and cause your dog to develop aggressive tendencies. Toss a ball or stick for your dog to fetch; jog with her or teach her to catch a Frisbee.
- Correct aggressive behaviour immediately. Your dog is challenging your leadership. Behaviour such as marking territory in the house, growling over food, possessions or the bed and being protective of one family member are all examples of dominant behaviour. Get help with these problems from an obedience trainer or a dog behaviouralist (*see Training*).
- Never let your dog bite or pull his leash.
- Never tease your dog or allow other to tease him.
- Never hit your dog or allow others to.

Most behaviour problems can be solved with the right amount of love, time and patience. Do not give up! The love and devotion your dog holds for you will make it all worthwhile!

### CHAPTER 12 TRAINING – RAISE WITH PRAISE

Dog training builds confidence in the timid dog and teaches discipline to the unruly one. In teaching your dog basic obedience, you are building a relationship and establishing your leadership position.

There are many training methods. You may train your dog at home with the guidance of a dog training manual or enroll in a dog obedience class.

Whatever method you use, establish a **consistent routine** that the entire family can carry out. If your

dog understands what is expected of her, she will be well mannered, happy and secure.

The first rule of dog training is **“the dog does what she gets rewarded for doing”**.

Your dog jumps on people because people look at her, talk to her and touch her when she jumps up. She runs away because you chase (play with) her. The easiest way to stop her from doing something is to IGNORE IT and reward the appropriate behavior.

The keys to successful training are:

- **repetition** (your dog can not learn everything at once)
- **praise** (kind words and pats will motivate your dog and make training sessions more positive)
- **consistency** (everyone in the family MUST follow the same training methods).



**CLICKER TRAINING** is a positive reinforcement based way to communicate with your pet. You can clicker train any dog as well as cats, birds and other pets as well. Clicker training is fast, easy, and fun. It is fun for the pet owner and the dog. Children can be wonderful clicker trainers. Clicker training is pet-friendly. It is all positive and never involves punishment or force. It is a form of communication, to the animal and from the animal to you. Pets enjoy the mental stimulation of clicker training and clicker training helps the whole family enjoy their pet more.

- Make a contract. What does the dog want? Food, toy, praise, petting? For now, we will assume the object of desire is food. Keep the treats small, but delicious. Little cubes of wiener, - not a lump of kibble.
- “Click” when the dog does something you like. Choose something easy, that the dog is likely to do on her own (sit, come toward you, lay down, walk next to you).
- “Click” DURING the desired behaviour, not after it is completed. The timing of the click is crucial. Give the treat after that; the timing of the treat is not important.
- If the dog sits, even for a moment, click when her bottom hits the ground. Then give her a treat.
- Reward good behaviour, and ignore bad behaviour. “Click” and treat for paws on the ground, not on visitors. Instead of scolding for barking, “click” and treat for silence. Cure leash pulling by “clicking” and treating when the leash happens to go slack.
- “Click” for voluntary (or accidental) movements toward your goal. You may coax the dog into a movement or position. This is called “shaping”. If you want to work a little faster, you can start molding your dog into the right position. “Click” and treat when she puts her head back, shifts her weight back, lowers her rear end. Anything that is closer to sitting down than she was a moment before gets “click”/treat.
- Shape the dog, as you would land a fish. A bit at a time, not being afraid to back up and help her if she thought you were going too fast. Do not be afraid to sit still and let the dog do the thinking.
- Lure the dog if you have to. If you want her to sit, for example, hold the treat up to her nose and use it to “pull” her nose up and back until her rear goes down. If you hold the treat too high, she will jump up. If you push back into her mouth instead of raising her nose, she might back up, but she will not sit. Always try to “catch” her sitting before shaping or luring.
- When a dog has learned to do something for “clicks”/treats, she will begin showing you the

behaviour spontaneously, trying to get you to click. Now is the time to offer a cue, like the word “sit” or a hand signal. Start clicking for that behaviour if it happens during or after the cue. Start ignoring that behaviour when the cue is not given.

- If your dog does not respond to a cue, she is not “disobeying”, she just has not learned the cue completely.

### **Teaching the Basics**

Teach these in order. In other words, teach the command “sit” first. Once your dog understands this, begin working on “sit/stay”. Teach “down”, then teach “down/stay”. Work two or three times every day with your dog. Keep the training sessions short (10 to 15 minutes each) so you both enjoy them.

Let her move from sitting or lying down only when you have told her she can with a release command such as “all done”, or “okay”. If you do not tell her when she can move, she'll guess. If she guesses, say “NO!” and put her back in position until you release her.



### **Sit**

When teaching sit, always wait for the behaviour to be offered. You can put the dog in a situation where she is likely to sit. Try a room with no distractions. Let her know you have food. Now wait. If her attention wanders too much, call her name. She WILL sit, if you have patience. When she sits, “click” and treat. Always throw the treat away from the dog. This forces her to get up to retrieve the treat. Now that she is standing she has a chance to do the behaviour again. Continue to “click” and treat every time she sits. After enough repetitions (over a couple of days) that she sits every time she walks up to you, start naming the behaviour. As she is sitting down, say the word “sit”. Remember, you do not need to bellow. You do not need to sound mad. This is HER window of opportunity. “If you want this treat, then you can sit.” Continue to say sit as she is sitting down and “click”/treat at the end. After another hundred repetitions, start predicting the sit. Say “sit” before you are sure she is about to sit. “Click”/treat when she does. Once she has learned the behaviour, start polishing her performance. Ask for more repetition, more time, more distance. Work with distractions of other people, other dogs. Start phasing out the clicker.

### **Down**

You can wait for down or if waiting is not working, you can lure. Always lure the least, wait and shape more. Luring does not make the dog think as much as shaping or waiting. Once you have the dog sitting, take a piece of food, hold it right up to her nose and slowly move the food back around to her hip. This forces her to stretch until she falls over or lies down. “Click” and treat when she hits the ground. Repeat. Luring also takes longer for the dog to realize what she is doing. Remember, just because she did the behavior once, this does not mean she knows what you want. After many repetitions, start luring less. Do not bring her nose all the way back. Keep luring less and less, until the dog can properly perform the task. Progress to adding the command and polishing performance the same as sitting.

## **Come**

There are three main exercises for teaching come. First, run away from the dog and calling her name in an excited voice. As soon as she starts to follow “click” and treat. Repeat this until every time you start to leave her, she follows. Now you can add the cue “come”. Never use the cue unless you are sure that she is going to come. DO NOT stand at the door screaming, “COME! COME!” when the dog is distracted by something else. You will be teaching her that “come” means that she can stay where she is.

The second exercise requires two people or more to call the dog back and forth. When you know she'll come to you, say “come” and “click”/treat. Ask for more by only “click”/treating when she comes right away or sits when she comes.

The last exercise is to always call her to you for something good. This includes supper, a walk, a rawhide, etc. Never call her to punish her. When you call her in from outside, a walk, or something else fun, let her go back a few times before you actually go. This teaches her that come does not always mean the end of something fun.



## **CHAPTER 13 CHOOSING THE RIGHT VETERINARIAN**

We love our pets and want them to live long, healthy lives. One critical factor in their care is the relationship with a trusted veterinarian. Just as you would in choosing a physician or dentist, you should do a bit of research to ensure that the vet you choose will be right for you and your new cat or dog. It is important to look for your vet before you bring home your new friend. Develop your relationship before a problem arises. Your vet can be your best ally in your quest for a healthy life for your pet. This will be a long-term relationship and you should take care to ensure that you have

chosen wisely.

### **Where to start**

Word of mouth is the best place to begin your search for the right vet. Ask people that you trust to recommend a good vet and to tell you why they chose him or her. Remember that their choice might not be yours, however. Some vets are better with one type of pet over another or some personalities over others. You want a vet whose personality works well with you and your pet. Some sources of recommendations might include the BVSPCA, friends who have pets, or the trainer of your obedience class. Ask those that you know take good care of their pets and you will likely get the best recommendations. Your phone book will have listings of local vets, but do not make your choice based on convenience alone.

### **Narrowing Down the Choice**

There are many factors to consider when choosing the right vet. Some obvious ones are location and office hours. You may love the great vet an hour away, but can you get there soon enough in an emergency? Does the vet have office hours that work with your schedule? He or she may be wonderful, but it will not be very convenient if you have to take time out of work to get an appointment.

### **The First Visit**

Once you have narrowed your choice to one or two, schedule an appointment with your top pick. When you arrive, take note of the condition of the office. It should look and smell reasonably clean. The size of the waiting room might be a consideration to you, as well. Are you and your cat or dog comfortable waiting in a tight spot?

### **What to Ask**

One of the first questions you should ask is whether this vet is available in emergencies, and if so, how can you contact him. If he or she is not available, do they have a suggestion for emergency care? It may be that your area has an emergency hospital nearby. It is critically important to have this information on hand in an emergency when minutes may count.

If you have an unusual breed or a dog that has an unusual condition, you should ask the vet if he or she is familiar with it. Ask questions and be sure that you are comfortable with the response. Does he or she explain well or does he or she dismiss your questions?

Is there more than one vet working in the office? If there is more than one vet, do they have specialties? If so, can you request a certain vet? You may want to take the time to meet all the vets working in an office before you decide to see only one of them.

Does the vet provide any other services such as boarding or grooming? If these are services that you require, they may be important factors in your decision.

No one likes to discuss money up-front, but it may be an important consideration as well. Ask for fees for routine services like physical exams or vaccinations. Does the clinic accept major credit cards? Will they payment plans if your pet requires an expensive surgery or treatment?

### **What Else to Look For**

The examination room should be clean and orderly. Has the table been wiped off after the last patient left? The vet should perform a check up on your dog or cat during the first visit. This should include feeling the animal over for suspicious lumps or bumps, looking in the eyes and ears, checking the

teeth and checking the heart. The vet should also ask you questions about the dog or cat's general health. If they have never seen the animal before, the vet should ask for some of the dog or cat's medical history. Does the vet rush the exam (or not do it at all)? Does he or she listen to you? Is he or she comfortable with your pet and does he or she appear to have a good rapport with them? Does your pet seem to like the vet or at least seem comfortable? Of course, some animals are difficult at every vet visit. If your pet is one of these, is the vet able to handle them? An experienced vet can handle the most difficult pets with a minimum of stress for the animal.

Once you have chosen your vet, ensure that you and your pet visit regularly. Keep the vet informed of any changes in your pet that concern you. Do not be afraid to ask questions and even get second opinions if the need arises. Take an active part in your pet's health care and you will keep your friend with you for many years to come!

## **CHAPTER 14**

### **A BRIEF GUIDE TO YOUR DOG'S MEDICAL NEEDS**

This guide is intended to be just that--a guide. If you have any concerns or questions about your pet's health or safety, please do not hesitate to contact your veterinarian. Never attempt to treat your dog without consulting a veterinarian, as some human medications are detrimental, toxic or even fatal to our pets.

#### **Initial Veterinary Care**

While in the care of the BVSPCA, your dog has had a full veterinary exam, has at least started (and possibly finished) a vaccination series and has been spayed or neutered (if this had not already been done before they joined us). Before you take your new family member home, the staff of the BVSPCA will acquaint you with their health record and let you know when your dog is due for further vaccinations or health checks.

The Bow Valley SPCA is pleased to offer a complimentary physical examination within the first seven

days of adoption. The purpose of this examination is to check for any new health problems that should be addressed or that may preclude adoption. Where possible, it is best to keep the new dog away from other animals at home until your veterinarian has determined them to be free of infectious conditions. This is also a good time to consider having your dog marked with an identification microchip.

Please contact one of the following veterinary clinics to book your complimentary veterinary exam.

Bow River Veterinary Centre  
1510 Railway Avenue, Canmore  
(403) 678-9595

Canmore Veterinary Hospital  
502 Bow Valley Trail, Canmore  
(403) 678-4425

Banff Veterinary Services  
Animal Control Building, Warden Compound on Hawk Street, Banff  
(403) 762-3611

### **Further Vaccinations and Annual Care**

During your adoption, a staff member will go over your new pet's health record with you. Vaccinations are important to the health of our pets. Through annual vaccinations, the occurrence and spread of infectious diseases is kept under control.

Pets of all ages benefit from regular vaccinations, especially the very young and the very old. Puppies have developing immune systems, thereby needing repeated vaccinations to strengthen them against exposure to various infectious diseases. Puppies may require additional vaccinations to complete their series and this will be your responsibility.

Yearly health exams and vaccinations should be scheduled with your veterinarian and it is your responsibility to ensure your pet receives the proper veterinary care that they need. Always check with your veterinarian if you are planning on taking your pet on vacation as other vaccines or treatments may be recommended for different provinces / countries.

### **General Vaccination Guidelines for Dogs**

Puppies 8 weeks of age:	Distemper, Adenovirus Type 2, Parainfluenza and Parvovirus (DA <sub>2</sub> PP)
Puppies 12 weeks of age:	DA <sub>2</sub> PP booster
Puppies 16 weeks of age:	DA <sub>2</sub> PP booster + Rabies
Puppies 20 weeks of age:	Check with your veterinarian

Adult dogs should receive a DA<sub>2</sub>PP and Rabies vaccine as scheduled by your veterinarian. You may also inquire about additional vaccinations such as Leptospirosis, Lyme Disease Corona Virus, Giardia and Canine Cough.

*Additional information on common pet diseases can be found in the appendix.*

### **Monitoring Your Pet's Health**

Now that you have your new pet at home it is time to start getting to know them. It is important to learn your pet's routines and habits, their general energy level and appetite, and yes--even their bathroom habits. Knowing what is normal for your pet will help you spot anything that "isn't right." Instinctively, animals tend to hide signs of weakness, illness or pain, but if you know your pet well, you will notice a difference in their routine or behaviour that can indicate you may need to take them to see a vet.

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association suggests that you consult your veterinarian if your pet shows any of the following signs:

- Abnormal behaviour, sudden viciousness, or lethargy
- Abnormal discharge from the nose, eyes, or other body openings
- Abnormal lumps, limping, or difficulty getting up or lying down
- Loss of appetite, marked weight losses or gains, or excessive water consumption
- Difficult, abnormal or uncontrolled waste elimination
- Excessive head shaking, scratching, licking or biting any part of the body
- Dandruff, loss of hair, open sores, and a ragged or dull coat
- Foul breath or excessive tartar deposits on teeth

Additionally, watch for convulsions or seizures, vomiting or diarrhea, excessive coughing or sneezing, and "scooting" (dragging their bum on the floor.) It is also important to check your pets thoroughly for ticks after springtime and early summertime outings.



### **Poisons and Poisonous Products Around the House**

Many common household products are dangerous to pets. This list contains some of the most common poisons. Check with your veterinarian immediately if you suspect your pet has been poisoned and be prepared to tell the veterinarian what your pet has eaten, how much and when, as well as their symptoms. Follow your veterinarian's instructions carefully. Common household products to keep your pets away from include:

- Weed killers
- Insecticides, or rat and mouse poisons
- Drugs, medications and other chemicals
- Paints
- Plants (see a listing of toxic plants in the appendix)
- Bee stings, insect bites, snake bites
- Slug bait
- Garbage
- Antifreeze
- Chocolate



### **EMERGENCY FIRST AID**

The following are ways to handle some emergency situations your pet may encounter. Ask your veterinarian about the availability of pet first aid classes.

- Auto accidents: if possible keep your pet quiet and warm to lessen shock and stop any bleeding. Transport your pet to the veterinarian on a blanket or board. Be careful--injured animals may bite.
- Burns: apply cold water and consult your veterinarian immediately.
- Cuts, tears, punctures and bites: clean the area with warm water and consult your veterinarian immediately.
- Porcupine quills: Keep your pet from pawing or biting at the quills and transport him immediately to the veterinarian. Do not cut the quills or attempt to pull them out yourself; porcupine quills must be properly removed.
- Eye problems: consult your veterinarian immediately.

- Frostbite: long periods of exposure to cold results in the freezing of tissue. Bring your pet indoors and wrap in a towel or blanket. Consult your veterinarian immediately.
- Heat stroke: the symptoms of heat stroke include uncontrollable panting, anxiety, blank stare, vomiting, collapse or unconsciousness. Place your pet in a cool area and offer water. Consult with your veterinarian immediately.
- Bloating: a swollen stomach is a serious emergency. Consult your veterinarian immediately. To help prevent bloating, avoid exercising your dog strenuously before or after feeding.
- Tick Removal: Loosen mouth parts with a drop of alcohol, peroxide or Vaseline, grasp tick close to skin with tweezers and pull straight back.

Exploring and trying new things can be some of the most endearing characteristics of our little loved ones, but it can also be one of the most unpredictable. Just as with people, illness and injury can happen suddenly and treatment, medication, or surgery can be a sizable and an unexpected financial burden. Fortunately, just as with people, pet insurance is available and you can choose between a variety of plans to find the most suitable one. There are even plans for multi-pet families and senior pets. In its least aspect, pet insurance can buy peace of mind, and in its greatest aspect, it can mean you do not have to make the decision between treatment and euthanasia. Check with the BVSPCA, or your veterinarian, for contact Information.

## CHAPTER 15



### IDENTIFICATION, LICENSING AND REGISTRATION

Dogs who undergo a spay or neuter procedure under the care of the BVSPCA will receive a tattoo in their ear as a unique identifier. If they have been spayed or neutered previous to the care of the BVSPCA, they will have an identification microchip inserted between their shoulder blades.

In addition to the unique tattoo and/or microchip your dog has been given, your veterinarian will provide you with a Rabies tag for your pet. You may wish to have this tag inscribed with your dogs name and a contact phone number, or to buy a specialty tag with your contact information as well.

Under municipal law, dogs must also be registered and/or licensed with the appropriate place of residence:

#### **Canmore Licensing Fees:**

Altered dog 6 months to 9 years old \$45 / yr      \$114.75 / 3yrs  
Altered dog over 9 years old (senior)      \$21 / yr      \$ 53.55 / 3 yrs

**Banff Licensing Fees:**

Altered dogs      \$35 / yr

**Exshaw Licensing Fees:**

Altered dogs      \$20 / yr

**My new dog**

**My Dogs Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My Veterinarian:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Clinic Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**License Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tattoo Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Microchip Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

Photo of my new dog

## **CHAPTER 16 RESPONSIBILITY OF PET OWNERS**

Owning a dog is a responsibility that lasts the lifetime of the dog.

- It is the responsibility of all dog owners to provide adequate care and protection for their pet.
- As a dog owner, you must ensure your pet is not a nuisance to the public and does not contribute to the pet overpopulation problem.
- Dog owners **MUST** pick up after their dogs when walking them off their property.
- By being a responsible pet owner, you are ensuring the safety and contentment of your dog and the continued acceptance of dogs in our society.
- It is the responsibility of all dog owners to register their dog with the local municipality.
- Responsible pet ownership extends far beyond what is required by law. The humane treatment of animals includes providing adequate exercise, grooming, attention, training and care, even during holidays and travel.



Whether they belong to more evolved species like humans or to simpler ones such as animals, all beings primarily seek peace, comfort, and security. Life is as dear to the mute animal as it is to any human being; even the simplest insect strives for protection from dangers that threaten its life. Just as each one of us wants to live and does not wish to die, so it is with all other creatures in the universe.

Dalai lama