

# MY NEW DOG

**A Kids Guide to Having a Happy Dog and Lifelong Companion.**



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# Welcome Me Home

**“I want to be your forever  
dog.”**

*– Your New Dog*



# Your First Days Together



Thank you for giving a new home to a wonderful pet...your very special dog! We wrote this book to help you to learn about your new dog. If you have adopted a puppy, there is a lot to learn. If you have taken home an older dog, you will be able to start out having fun right away. Older dogs have been potty trained and most have good manners. They will also be able to learn new behaviors and tricks with proper training, at any age.

Dogs are pack animals. That means that they love being with others, and can learn how to behave in a family. Your new dog will need exercise, training and a lot of love.

They will be with you for many years. So read this book and share what you've learned with your friends and family.

Always remember that your pet is very sensitive to your feelings. When you are sad, your dog will know. When you are worried, your pets can feel worried too. When you are angry, they will feel scared. When you are happy, and playing with your dog, they will be happy.

Be gentle and loving with your puppy or dog. He will rely on you to take good care of him. When you gave your new pet a new home, it was forever.

When your new dog sees his forever home, it will seem strange at first and unfamiliar to him or her. Take time to show your dog around your home and show him where his food and water will be kept. Show him where he will sleep. It will help him become familiar with a new home faster.

You can take him around the neighborhood on a leash, but only with an adult at first, and after he has become familiar with his new, forever, home.

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## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR DOG

- 🐾 Remember to never hit me.
- 🐾 Never, ever, sit on me.
- 🐾 Never pull on my ear(s) or my tail, and please teach your friends the same manners.
- 🐾 If I seem tired, please let me rest.
- 🐾 If I seem bored, please play with me.
- 🐾 Never leave me in a hot car or outside too long.
- 🐾 Don't walk me during the hottest part of the day. I can get sunburned quickly.
- 🐾 Be gentle with me; give me encouraging words and help me to feel safe and comfortable.
- 🐾 My life will last 10 to 15 years. Any separation from you will be painful to me. Remember that before you take me home.
- 🐾 Give me time to understand what you want from me.
- 🐾 Let me know that you trust me.
- 🐾 Don't be angry with me for long, and don't lock me up as punishment. You have school and your friends. I only have you.
- 🐾 Talk to me sometimes. Even if I don't understand your words, I understand your voice when it's speaking to me.
- 🐾 Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it.
- 🐾 Before you scold me for doing something wrong, maybe something is bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, or I've been out in the sun too long, or my heart is sad.
- 🐾 Take care of me when I get old. I am part of your family, and family is forever.

Dogs come in all colors, shapes and sizes. Some dogs have long fur and some have short fur. Some have blue eyes, or brown eyes, or golden eyes.

We believe that every dog is special, so we will share photographs of some of our rescued puppies and dogs throughout this book. We hope that you enjoy them!

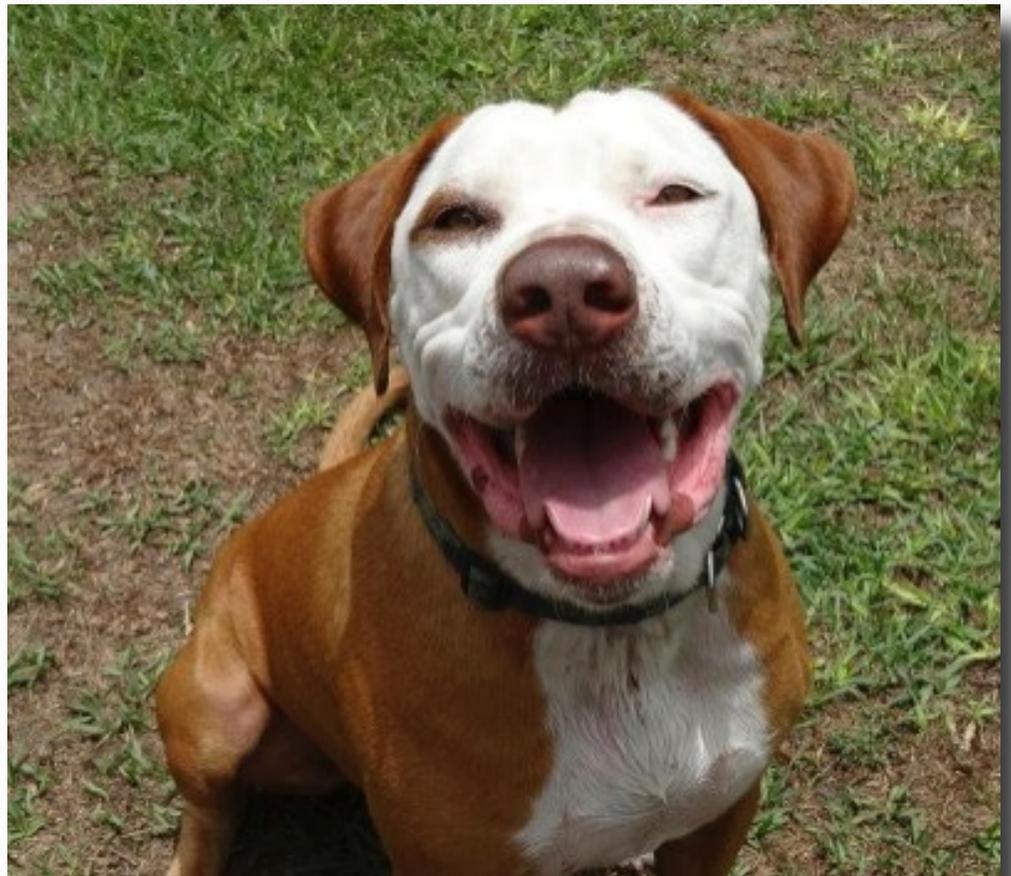
Are you interested in knowing more about the different kinds of dogs?

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## Photographs

There is great information on the internet, and you can find out just about anything you want to know. But it's important to go to the right place to get correct information. The best places to find correct information are animal sites, like a vet clinic or vet hospital. The ASPCA website has great resources too. You can find Facebook Pages that have information on dogs. There are books online, at the library and in stores. Your local pet store will also have books and magazines about dogs.

There are television shows that are just for dogs. We'll tell you more about those in this book too.



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## Exercise & Play

Winnie wants to play.



All dogs need daily exercise. Dogs that are left for long periods of time, or crated, should be exercised before you leave them alone. Remember, while you go to school, or out with friends, your dog will miss you. While your dog will enjoy your company while you are busy with other activities, he will also need

special activity planned just for him. Below are some fun activities you can enjoy with your pet:

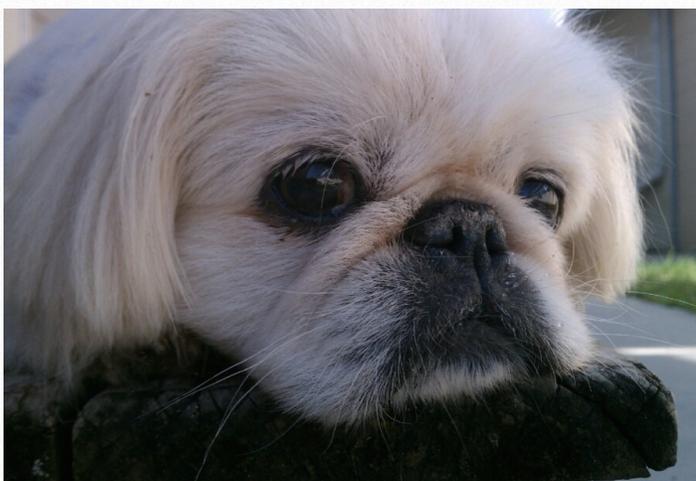
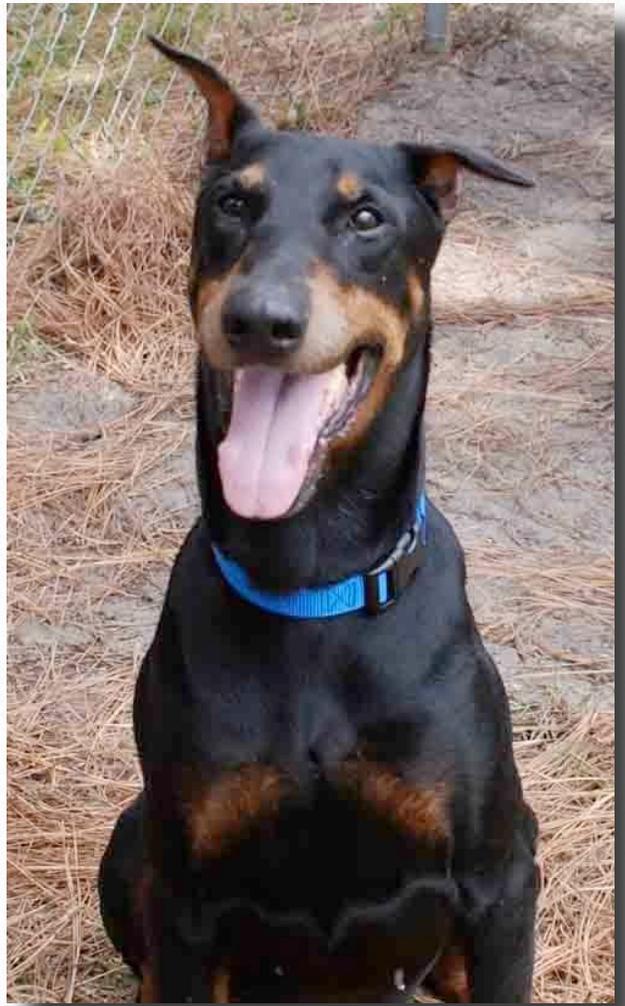
Walking - A long walk twice a day will keep your dog healthy. Some dogs love to walk fast, and others like to walk slower. Your dog will let you know which they like best.

Fetch– Most dogs love to play fetch with a ball or other object. This will be fun for you and fun for your dog. Frisbees are great fun too!

Hide and Seek – You can take treats, or a favorite toy and hide it somewhere in the house, or even under a blanket. Dogs love to search out their treats and it gives their sense of smell an extra workout.

Obedience Training – Obedience training helps you and your dog be happier, because he will learn what you expect him to do. You can learn how to train your pet from books, or your parents can hire a professional trainer to start, and you can provide follow up training. Many of the pet stores have low cost puppy training too.

Dog Parks & Dog Beaches – Find out if your neighborhood has a place where your dog can run off their leash. Remember that there will be other dogs there, too, and your dog must understand basic commands like “sit”, “come” and “stay”. Your dog must also have updated protection from vaccinations. You should never go alone, but always with an adult.



Quiet Time too! - Your dog can stay beside you while you do homework or watch TV.

# 3

## Healthy Habits

*"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion."*



Your new pet will be with you for the rest of their life, and it's important to take very good care of them. Food, water, potty time, exercise and play are all very important. The more you know about pet care, the happier your pets will be.

### Food And Water

You should feed them the best food that your parents can afford. Although dogs love dry kibble, which is better for their teeth, they also need

canned food occasionally. The water and vitamins in wet food is good for them too. Fresh water should always be available to them, and it's best to clean out their water bowl every day and fill it with clean water. In the summertime they will need more water and big dogs may empty their bowl several times a day. So keep your eye on that bowl and make sure that your best friend has enough fresh water.

### Staying Clean

Some dogs love to have a bath, and some don't. But all dogs need to get clean and look good. A bath every so often is a good idea, and more often if your dog spends a lot of time outdoors. There are special shampoos made just for dogs, and if your dog loves baths, you will see him smile when you take out the soap and water.

You can also brush their fur, and have your parents, or another adult, clip their nails.

### Potty Training

Your parents will do most of the work to potty train your puppy, but there are some tips that you need to remember.



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## Yay! It's time for a bath!

You need to be very patient with your puppy. It takes time for them to learn the proper way to use the bathroom.

You might want to start with puppy pee pads which are sold at the pet store and the supermarket. You can guide your puppy to the pad when they look like they may have to go. Some puppies will start circling, or whining or looking around for a place they should pee.

Always remember to clean up after an accident, right away. Your puppy may go back to the same place because the smell attracted them and they may think it's the right place to go. You can use special cleaners to take the smell away.

You will be able to successfully house break your pet if you're:

- 🐾 Always calm. Yelling and getting angry will only scare your puppy. Never rub your puppy's nose in pee or poo. It doesn't work and it's a bad thing to do.
- 🐾 Patient. If you are anxious, your puppy will know and it will confuse them.



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## **Potty training can be a lot of work.**

🐾 Consistent. Puppies usually need to go about 30 minutes after they eat, so if they have a regular feeding schedule, you can better tell when they may need you to help with training. Puppies and small dogs will also need to go more often than bigger dogs, so they will need to go out more often. Keep your dog on a regular schedule every day and you both will be happier with potty training progress.

🐾 Taking your puppy outside often, and always on a leash.

🐾 Always letting your puppy know when they do right. Treats and praise are both effective when your dog uses the bathroom in the right place. Rewards work for you, too, right?

When your puppy does have an accident do not punish, yell or scold them as it will confuse and scare them. Instead, calmly clean up the mess and take it outside with your dog to show them where you want them to go.



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**The more you know about your dog, the happier he will be.**

## Safety

Your dog will be happiest and safest inside his forever home, or on a leash when he is outside. There are many dangers your dog may face if let outside.

- 🐾 They can get injured or lost.
- 🐾 They may get into a fight with another animal (a raccoon, an opossum, foxes or even snakes!), or another cat or dog.
- 🐾 They can pick up diseases.
- 🐾 They may get hit by a car.

It is also important that your dog be protected from bad weather. They should be indoors when it is cold, and when it is hot. They should be indoors when the weather is bad.

Never leave your dog in a hot car! Even when it's not too hot outside, the inside of a car can get very, very hot.

Does your new furry friend have a microchip? Most shelters will put a small chip, about the size of a grain of rice, beneath their furry coat. It doesn't



**When your dog is outdoors, it's best that they be on a leash or in a fenced yard.**

hurt your dog, but it can help a lost pet get returned to their forever human. If a dog gets lost, an adult can take it to the vet and they can find out who the owner is by scanning for the microchip between the shoulders. That is why it's important to make sure your parents register the microchip that came with your dog.

At times, most pet owners will come across a behavior in their dog that they are having problems changing. There are many sources available to assist you.

In books – libraries, bookstores and pet stores have many books that can teach dog care, training ideas and suggestions for improving behavior.

On the Internet – information found on the internet can give you advice on how to deal with particular behaviors in a positive way.

On TV - There are wonderful shows about dog training and behavior on the television, too. Check out “Cesar 911”, “It’s Me or the Dog” and “Lucky Dog”. “Lucky Dog” is especially fun because it features shelter dogs and shows how they can be trained before finding their forever home. Look on your cable menu for the right time and channel.



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**A pet doctor is called a veterinarian. It's very important for your dog to have a doctor who will help keep them healthy.**

From a Pet Trainer - Pet Trainers have years of experience with dogs of different breeds and temperaments. They know the best ways to encourage dogs to learn new behaviors.

Always remember that you can ask the shelter that took care of your pet before you adopted them if you have any questions. They have had hands-on experience with your dog and may be able to give you insight into its behavior. C.A.R.E. is always willing to help our dogs have happy, healthy lives in their forever homes.

A pet doctor is called a veterinarian, or a vet. Your dog should visit a vet at least once a year, but every six months is even better. The vet will check them over to make sure they are healthy. Pets won't often let you know if they are not feeling well, but the vet will be able to tell. They can ensure that any unwanted behavior is not due to health problems.

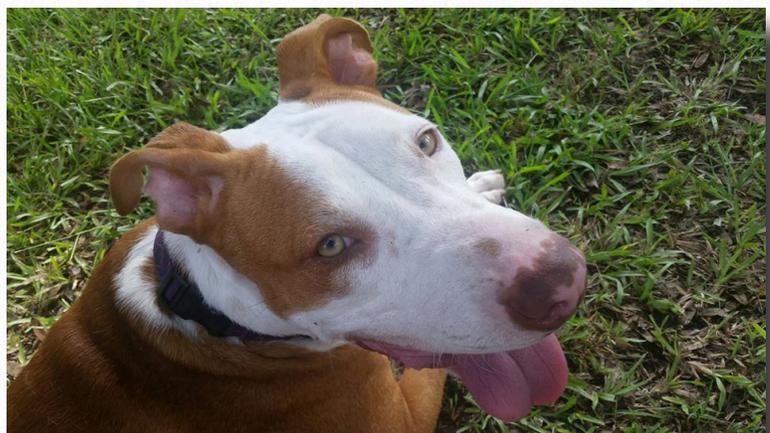
We know that you want your dog to stay healthy, so how often do you think dogs should be checked by their doctor? If they start to hide it may be a sign they are sick or hurting. If your dog doesn't eat, or drink clean water, or seems especially quiet or tired, then they should visit their vet right away.



Every pet should have a vet. If you adopted your forever friend from a shelter, then they should be up to date on their vaccinations. All good shelters will make sure that your girl dog has been spayed (this is an operation to prevent the mom from having puppies, that may also become homeless). Your boy dog will be neutered before you bring him home. Your vet can let you know if your dog has had the operation, and if they haven't, then good pet families should have their vet protect the pet from the stresses of future parenthood. It's a safe and common operation, and your pet will be happier. Your vet will also be able to tell you when their shots are due, which will protect them from some very serious diseases.

The best place to get medication to help prevent fleas on your dog is the vet's office, because they know which kinds are safest. Flea bites can cause infections and skin conditions, including lots of itchiness! Fleas can get on your dog when they go outside. Fleas can get on your clothes or shoes and be brought inside your home. Fleas can be hard to get rid of, but a monthly dose of medicine will help to keep your dog flea free. If you keep your room clean, and the floors vacuumed weekly, that will help catch the fleas too. Mosquitos can also carry diseases that can make dogs very sick.

It is also important to protect your dog from heartworms. Heartworms are passed to dogs from the bite of an infected mosquito, and we have a lot of mosquitos in Florida! But the good news is that heartworms are easy to prevent. There are many different kinds of medication that prevent heartworms and your veterinarian can help you make the best choice for your dog. It's very important to give the medications every month.



Your special friend will be with you for many years. So caring for them properly is good for both of you.



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**Emergency information to keep handy.**

### **In Case of Emergency**

Keep all of this information in a safe place. Write down the answers on paper and stick it on the refrigerator. That way, anyone who cares for your pet will have the important information needed in an emergency.

- The phone number for an emergency veterinarian for night and weekend emergencies
- Your pet's name or names
- Your full address
- Your parent's phone numbers
- Your pet's microchip number
- Your veterinarian's name and phone number
- A list of any medications that your pet takes



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**Love is a four-legged word.**

It's a big responsibility caring for a pet, isn't it?  
Yet it's one of the best experiences you can have.

So have fun!

We send you lots of tail wagging love from the dogs and puppies at C.A.R.E.

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# Dedication

The dogs and puppies at C.A.R.E. thank all of the volunteers  
for helping them live healthy, happy lives  
while waiting for their forever family.

A special thank you to our writers, reviewers, photographers and editors:

Kristinn Green - Chris Vergallito - Cassie Bixler - Sharon Becker  
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C.A.R.E.

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*If you wish to make a tax deductible donation to our charitable nonprofit,  
you will find the secure Network for Good link on our webpage.*

<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/careshelter?code=careshelter>



*C.A.R.E. is a no-kill animal shelter for neglected, abused and unwanted cats and dogs with a mission to reduce the number of homeless and abandoned animals through adoption, sterilization and education.*

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