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**Innocent Paws Puppy Rescue Post Adoption Information**

We know that owning a puppy is a big responsibility and we want your adoption to be smooth and successful.  Please find helpful hints in adjusting to life with your new puppy in this [article](https://petstablished.com/ahoy/messages/I5OFQuinFq4rgjt5ETQ8jAiCCBWWgdoG/click?signature=65364fe6b78db8c520e92db118ab5a7b96e29512&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pawboost.com%2Fblog%2Fpuppy-proof-make-your-home-safe-for-a-new-arrival%2F%3Futm_source%3Dadoption_application_mailer%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Dfinalized_adoption_not_registered).  Also, you can visit the "Resources" page on our website; https://innocentpawspuppyrescue.org/resources

ADOPTION DAY

Your puppy might be a bit exhausted after her/his big gotcha day!  S/he may be tired and want to rest when you get home, or s/he may be very active, these are both normal behaviors for a tired puppy.   We recommend that you introduce your puppy to their new home slowly so as not to overwhelm her/him with too much too quickly.  Upon arriving at home we would encourage you to take your puppy outside to the area where you would like her/him to potty. Let your puppy explore and if/when s/he does potty reward your puppy with positive vocal rewards along with treats. We would encourage you to take your puppy out about every two hours while you are awake and reward success. Choose only one word that means potty and have everyone in your family learn and use it to prompt your puppy to void and stool in the area you would like.

Please remember, this may be the first time your puppy has been away from her/his mother and siblings. This can be very stressful. We invite you to exercise patience as you integrate your new puppy into your family.

INTRODUCING YOUR PUPPY TO YOUR RESIDENT DOG

If you have a resident dog, please exercise care when introducing your puppy to him/her.  We **strongly encourage** you to read the following article [https://dogtime.com/dog-health/general/712-bringing-home-a-second-dog-aspca](https://petstablished.com/ahoy/messages/I5OFQuinFq4rgjt5ETQ8jAiCCBWWgdoG/click?signature=0f69dc351c20fd42b5dc41992ff22b8e31c5f4a4&url=https%3A%2F%2Fdogtime.com%2Fdog-health%2Fgeneral%2F712-bringing-home-a-second-dog-aspca%3Futm_source%3Dadoption_application_mailer%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Dfinalized_adoption_not_registered) to learn how best to introduce your puppy to your resident pup. You want this introduction to be successful as it can have an impact on the future relationship between your now two pups.  You may consider introducing your pup to her/his new sibling after s/he has had some time to explore her/his new environment.  Remember this is a big day for your puppy and s/he may be feeling a bit stressed due to being in a new home away from her/his siblings and/or mother for the first time.

FOOD:

We have been feeding the puppies "Wholehearted Chicken and Brown Rice Puppy Kibble”, which can be purchased at Petco.   You may continue to feed your puppy "Wholehearted Chicken and Brown Rice Puppy Kibble”or change her/his diet to something else.  If you choose to change your puppy’s diet we suggest you transition slowly over the course of 3-4 days so as not to upset her/his stomach. Over time, you may also find that your puppy’s sleep and appetite requirements may fluctuate as s/he continues to grow.  We recommend providing food to your pup three to four times per day as s/he grows.  If you find that your puppy is becoming a bit more mouthy, it may be an indicator that s/he is hungry and we would encourage you to offer him/her food at that time.  A good guide for how much to feed your puppy  is to refer to the dog food manufacturer’s recommendations and consult with your veterinarian.

SPAY/NEUTER SURGERY

Something else you may notice is that your stools could potentially become looser in the next day or two due to his/her recent surgery, moving away from her/his siblings, and into a new home. This can be normal.  If your puppy has been spayed/neutered within the last two weeks, please do not get their incision site wet until they have reached the two week postoperative date. Getting the site wet can cause the puppy to get an infection at the incision site. Your puppy’s spay/neuter date can be found both on their medication record, top right hand corner, and on their spay/neuter certificate.

VACCINATIONS:

As a reminder, your puppy has received her/his age-appropriate vaccinations.  This does not mean that s/he has been fully vaccinated.  If your puppy has not been fully vaccinated we strongly suggest that you do not socialize her/him in public settings such as dog parks, open spaces, or stores until s/he has had her/his final DA2PP and Rabies vaccinations.  Please look for puppy playgroups for socialization that require attendees to provide documentation of vaccinations so that your puppy is not accidentally exposed to diseases that s/he has not developed immunity from.   Also, please only socialize your pup with other dogs who you know are fully vaccinated. You will want to schedule your puppy’s first well puppy exam with his/her veterinarian within the next few weeks to establish a relationship and continue with the needed vaccinations.  During that visit, please take a copy of the medication/vaccination record you will be provided with at the time of adoption with you so that yourvet can make note of your puppy’s health history and co-create a plan for her/him to receive any needed vaccinations. The date of the next required vaccination is highlighted in yellow on your puppy’s medication/vaccination record. Please make sure to follow through with vaccinating your puppy in order to keep him/her safe!

MICROCHIP:

When the adoption is processed, your puppy’smicrochip registration information will be changed to reflect that you are the primary contact.  The rescue will remain the secondary contact in case your puppy should get lost and the finder is unable to get ahold of you.   Your puppy’smicrochip is registered for life and therefore you do not need to register it again or pay any other fees for it.  As a reminder, the microchip is NOT a tracking device.  It is a chip placed under your puppy’s skin that houses your and the rescue’s contact information.  In the event your pup would become lost the finder would need to take your pup to the vet or pet store to have the chip read in order to know who to contact.

ADOPTION DAY TAKE HOME INFORMATION

We will provide you with a small bag of food to get your puppy started at home. You will also receive a copy of your adoption contract, your puppy’s medication/vaccination record, and spay/neuter certificate via email at the time of adoption. Your medication/vaccination record will list all the vaccinations your puppy has had along with wormers and post-operative pain medications. If your puppy received any other medications to treat other issues such as intestinal parasites, skin treatments, respiratory issues, or any other illnesses, those will be listed there as well.