



Important Things to Know After Adopting a Dog from Arf-Anage

We know that finding your perfect pet at an adoption event was a lot of fun, but also a bit overwhelming. This document will help guide you through the next few weeks, so please take a few moments to read it through.

SPAY/NEUTER

If your dog was **not** altered (spayed/neutered) before you took them home, please know we are trusting you to abide by our policies. Breaking that trust with the rescue WILL result in your new pet being repossessed and being banned from all future adoptions.

- 1) If you were not assigned an appointment date at the time of adoption, please contact Arf ASAP. ALL dogs must be spayed/neutered within 30 days of adoption – there are NO exceptions.
- 2) If you were asked to call Homeward Bound in Chandler, please call them TODAY as they book 4 – 6 weeks in advance.
- 3) If you were assigned a date, but cannot keep that date, please call Arf to let us know and we will assign you a new date. There is a \$50 charge for changing the appointment date. **Failure to show up for the appointment will result in the \$50 change fee and Arf repossessing the dog.**

If your appointment is at:

North Phoenix Animal Clinic

1. Please ensure your dog has had nothing to eat after 10 pm the night before, water is ok.
2. Please have your dog to the clinic between 8-8:30 am.
3. Please plan on picking your dog up before 4:30 pm.
4. If your dog has a hernia or unattached rear dew claws, please let them know at the time of your appointment. Arf does pay for these procedures.
5. If you would like to purchase pain meds or a cone, please let them know, Arf does not pay for either of these items.
6. Please make sure you read and understand the discharge instructions.

Altered Tails – Phoenix

1. Please ensure your dog has had nothing to eat after 10 pm the night before, water is ok
2. Please have your dog to the clinic at 7 am.
 - a. You will need to stand in the line to the left of the door as you face the building. That is the line for rescue/foster dogs. They will take folks from that line first.
 - b. The check in process can take 30 – 60 minutes – please be prepared to wait.
3. Please plan on picking your dog up by 4:00 pm.
4. If your dog has a hernia or unattached rear dew claws, please let them know at the time of your appointment. Arf does pay for these procedures.
5. If you would like to purchase pain meds or a cone, please let them know, Arf does not pay for either of these items.
6. Please make sure you read and understand the discharge instructions.

Altered Tails – Mesa

1. Please ensure your dog has had nothing to eat after 10 pm the night before, water is ok.
2. Please have your dog to the clinic at 7 am – we recommend being in line by 6:45 am.
 - a. The line up is behind the building. Stay in your car.
 - b. The check in process can take 30 – 60 minutes – please be prepared to wait.
3. Please plan on picking your dog up by 4:00 pm.
4. If your dog has a hernia or unattached rear dew claws, please let them know at the time of your appointment. Arf does pay for these procedures.
7. If you would like to purchase pain meds or a cone, please let them know, Arf does not pay for either of these items.
8. Please make sure you read and understand the discharge instructions.

Homeward Bound – Chandler

1. Please ensure your dog has had nothing to eat after 10 pm the night before, water is ok.
2. Please have your dog to the clinic at 6:30 am – we recommend being in line by 6:15 am.
 - a. The lineup is on the north side of the building. Stay in your car.
 - b. The check in process can take 30 – 60 minutes – please be prepared to wait.
3. Please plan on picking your dog up by 4:00 pm.
4. If your dog has a hernia or unattached rear dew claws, please let them know at the time of your appointment. Arf does pay for these procedures.
5. If you would like to purchase pain meds or a cone, please let them know, Arf does not pay for either of these items.
6. Please make sure you read and understand the discharge instructions

VACCINATIONS – NOT RABIES

If you adopted an adult dog, it is most likely fully vaccinated. Typically, adult dogs only require one dose of the 5 in 1 vaccine and we will do that before the dog goes home.

Puppies are rarely fully vaccinated before they go home. It is CRITICAL that you understand your responsibility in this process. Puppies need a series of 3 doses of the 5 in 1 vaccine to be fully vaccinated. This series cannot be completed until the puppy is at least 16 weeks of age. This means, that your new family member is susceptible to all kinds of illnesses if you don't do everything you can to keep them safe.

Therefore, we ask that puppies that are not fully vaccinated **not be allowed to:**

- 1) Walk outside
- 2) Go to dog parks
- 3) Go to a pet store – even if you are going to carry them; please don't put them in the shopping cart!
- 4) Start training
- 5) Go anywhere that could expose them to an illness

They can:

- 1) Be around fully vaccinated dogs and cats
- 2) Go outside in your backyard (not your front yard)
- 3) Use potty pads if needed
- 4) Go to your vet's office if you carry them in

All 5 in 1 vaccines are administered through the rescue from a volunteer. You do not need to call your vet or our vet to set up a vaccine appointment – Arf will not cover the cost of vaccines from a vet. You DO need to contact a volunteer in your area (see page 4 of the adoption contract) to make an appointment for the vaccine. All of our volunteers have families and full-time jobs. Therefore, they each do vaccines on different days of the week and on different schedules. Please call them to make an appointment at least one week before the shot is due. You can check your shot record to see when they next shot is due (3-4 weeks in between shots).

RABIES VACCINE

Most adult dogs will have completed their rabies vaccine. If you don't have proof of completion, please contact Arf. We will give you next steps. Puppies must be at least 12 weeks old to receive their rabies vaccine. If you adopted a puppy before it was 12 weeks old, it will be your responsibility to get them vaccinated. Arf will cover the cost of the rabies vaccine if you use Homeward Bound or North Phoenix Animal Clinic. Please contact them directly to make an appointment. If you chose to get the rabies vaccine done somewhere other than those 2 locations, you will be responsible for the cost of the vaccine. Please just send Arf a copy of the rabies certificate for our files.

OTHER/MISC

Food Change – likely you have changed the food your dog has been eating. It is likely they will have soft stools or even diarrhea for a couple of days. We recommend giving them chicken and rice or boiled hamburger and rice for a couple of days. You can also give them a little cottage cheese or plain, unsweetened yogurt. Puppies should not be on a feeding schedule – allow them to free-feed, with access to clean water at all times.

If your puppy gets lethargic or stops eating, we need to know ASAP. That can be a sign of a serious illness. You do not need to rush them to the vet or an emergency vet. Our volunteers are trained and able to help in these situations. If you take the dog to the vet or emergency vet, you will be responsible for all charges.

Please remember, if anything happens and the adoption doesn't work out, the dog must be surrendered to Arf, you cannot rehome the dog on your own.