

# Canine Adoption Packet



Congrats on your new furry friend!

Important information for adopters of dogs and puppies

## My Pet's Information

Please keep this information in a safe place!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Adoption Date: \_\_\_\_\_ License #: \_\_\_\_\_

Microchip Company: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Vet Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Vet Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Vet Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Contact List

### Adoption Questions/Customer Service

(360) 692-6977, [customerservice@kitsap-humane.org](mailto:customerservice@kitsap-humane.org)

### Medical Questions

(360) 692-6977 ext. 1209, [mzarb@kitsap-humane.org](mailto:mzarb@kitsap-humane.org)

### Behavior Advice/Training

[behavior@kitsap-humane.org](mailto:behavior@kitsap-humane.org)

### Returns-by appointment only

(360) 692-6977 ext. 1123

## 24 Hour Emergency Care

### VCA Central Kitsap

2238 NW Bucklin Hill Rd, Ste 100, Silverdale, WA 98383 Phone: 360-692-6162

## Licensing

Depending on where you live, you may be required to obtain a license for your newly adopted dog. All dogs in Kitsap County are required to be licensed, and there are different licenses for each city and unincorporated Kitsap County. Your adoption processor should let you know which license you need and may be able to issue one to you, however, you will be required to update it as necessary.

# What will you find in your adoption packet?

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## Kitsap Humane Society

Thank you for choosing to adopt from Kitsap Humane Society! We hope you will be very happy with your new companion. In this adoption packet you will find a variety of helpful hints and materials, including important documents about your new dog.

We encourage you to keep these documents in a safe place along with your other important papers. When one of our dogs leaves the shelter to start his or her “new beginning” we feel great happiness for the dog and his or her new family.

So, we again thank you for giving your dog a loving home, and we hope you will encourage others to consider adopting an animal from KHS or another shelter, so they too can experience the joy of finding a new best friend.

KHS’ vision is that every adoptable companion animal has a home. For more information, visit [www.kitsap-humane.org](http://www.kitsap-humane.org).



# **My Pet's Microchip-Frequently Asked Questions**

## **Is my pet microchipped?**

Yes. All KHS animals leave with a microchip that is registered to Home Again.

## **Do I need to pay an annual or registration fee for my pet's microchip to be registered?**

No. Your adoption fee includes lifetime registration with Home Again. Home Again offers a fee-based annual membership with enhanced benefits that you may wish to purchase, but basic membership (included with adoption) is all you need to make sure your pet can be traced to you. There is no annual fee for basic membership.

## **How do I update or verify that my pet's microchip information is current?**

Visit: <http://public.HomeAgain.com> and select "sign up for online access"

or call 1-888-Home Again (1-888-466-3242)

If you move or your contact information changes, you must contact Home Again and update your information. This is the only way a finder will be able to trace your pet's microchip to you.

## **What if my pet has a non-Home Again microchip?**

If your pet came into KHS with a non-Home Again microchip, you will be notified during the adoption process. Regardless of the manufacturer, we will register the microchip with Home Again at the time of adoption. However, the original chip company will not have your contact information unless you give it to them. If your pet goes missing, anyone scanning that chip will contact the previous owner. Therefore, you must call that chip company and give them your contact information.

The company may charge you to update the information. KHS is not responsible for that fee.

Avid: [www.AvidID.com](http://www.AvidID.com), 951-284-1300, 1-800-336-2843

24 Pet Watch: [www.24petwatch.com/US/lost\\_pet](http://www.24petwatch.com/US/lost_pet), 1-866-597-2424

ResQ: [www.petlink.net](http://www.petlink.net), 1-877-PETLINK, 1-877-738-5465

Michelson Found Animals Foundation: [www.foundanimals.org](http://www.foundanimals.org)

## **What should I do if my pet is microchipped and is not appearing in Home Again's records?**

Contact Home Again (see above).

Congratulations on your adoption! Kitsap Humane Society is a proud partner of Petco Love Lost, a FREE service that uses pet facial recognition to help reunite



When you adopt or reclaim your cat or dog from our shelter, they are already pre-registered on Lost.PetcoLove.org - your pet's profile will be automatically moved to your new account when you complete your free registration.

Petco Love Lost's mission is to reunite all lost dogs and cats with their families. Register your pets for FREE today to help ensure they make their way back to you if they ever go missing in the future.

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## Training

### Training Assistance

If you need assistance, from helpful tips and hints, to ongoing work with a behavior issue please contact our Behavior Department. We have a Certified Professional Dog Trainer on staff who can assist you with your needs and/or direct you to the appropriate training resources. Please reach out as soon as you have concerns. There is a much higher chance of success and resolving behavior problems the earlier they are worked on.

Contact: our Certified Professional Dog Trainer—360-692-6977 ext 1112

Behavior@Kitsap-Humane.org

### Other Training Resources

There is a wide variety of dog training information to be found. Not all information is created equal nor are all dog training methods the same. KHS advocates a relationship-based training practice rooted in science-backed behavior principles. We strongly discourage force or aversive based training practices.

For general training information and resources please see:

- Clicker Training: <http://www.clickertraining.com/get-started> Best Friends Animal Society: <http://bestfriends.org/resources/dogsDogmantics>
- Dog Training (lots of great, free videos on training different behaviors, also found on Youtube as "Kikopup"): <http://dogmantics.com/>
- San Francisco SPCA: <https://www.sfspca.org/behavior-training/dog-behavior-resources>
- ASPCA: <http://www.asPCA.org/>
- Center for Shelter Dogs: <http://centerforshelterdogs.tufts.edu/dog-behavior/#> and <http://centerforshelterdogs.tufts.edu/resource-library/>
- Dumb Friends League: <http://www.ddfl.org/pdf/behavior-handout>

# Your New Dog

Adopting a dog or puppy is a long term commitment! Dogs have an average lifespan of 10-12 years, but some dogs can live 15 years or more. Your commitment to being a responsible dog guardian for the duration of your dog's life includes:

- Providing good food, clean water, medical care, a safe and comfortable environment, appropriate exercise and training for your dog.
- Complying with state and local ordinances related to keeping a dog.
- Providing a collar and ID tag with your name and phone number(s) for your dog to wear at all times, and registering his microchip with your contact information.
- Addressing all behavior or health issues that may arise in a humane and timely manner.

## The First 24 Hours and Beyond

Bringing home a new dog can be both an exciting and a stressful event. As excited as you might be to show off your new family member to the rest of your friends and family, it is best to keep the next few weeks fairly calm and uneventful for your dog: no parties or large groups of people coming over, no trips to friend's houses or dog parks, no vet visits, etc. Please take your time when letting your dog settle in. Keep in mind how stressful or nervous he or she might be when first coming home. Although you want him to know that you are fun and safe and your home is now his home, all your dog might see at first is strangers in a strange place.

- You may see behavior changes as your dog begins to feel more at ease.
- Go slow with introducing your new dog to other pets. Limit visitors and outings while he is first settling in.
- Be patient and focus on building your relationship in a positive way

## Food

We will send you home with a starter bag of the food your dog has been eating at our shelter. While you may feed your dog any nutritious dog food you choose, you will need to transition your dog gradually from our food to your new brand of food.

Start with a ratio of  $\frac{3}{4}$  current food to  $\frac{1}{4}$  new food and slowly increase the amount of the new food daily to avoid gastrointestinal upset. It should take about 2 weeks to fully transition from one food to another.

## Exercise

Regular walks and play sessions not only provide dogs with exercise, but also help to meet social needs. Insufficient exercise and stimulation can play a role in certain undesirable behaviors such as destructiveness, hyperactivity, or even barking. A dog needs both physical exercise (e.g. walks, hikes, and playing fetch) and mental exercise (e.g. food puzzles, training time, and nose work sessions).

## Settling In/House Rules

On average, it takes a dog 3-6 months to become fully acclimated to life in a new home. It will take time for you and your dog to adjust to life together. Some dogs may not have been in a home before and they will need patience and understanding. As a pet owner, it is up to you to set your new dog up for success and help him or her learn to live in your household. Having conversations with the whole family and setting up clear guidelines for expectations (both for the humans and the dogs) can help set everyone up for success. Things you will want to take into consideration include:

- Sleeping arrangements (Where will the dog sleep?)
- Furniture rules (Are dogs allowed on the couch? Beds?)
- Being left alone (Will the dog be crated or roam free throughout the house?)
- Feeding/M meal time (Where will the dog eat? Who is responsible for feeding the dog? Where will the dog be when the humans are eating? Is begging allowed? Can the dog have human food from the table?)
- Exercise/playtime/training (Will the dog go for walks? Who will take the dog out? Who is responsible for making sure everyone is consistent with training?)

Once you are clear on your expectations for everyone, you can help teach your dog the “house rules”. It takes time though, for dogs to learn. Although they can be very smart, the average dog has the same mental capacity of a toddler. So, remember to arrange your household/the environment to set yourself and your dog up for success, create clear expectations for both human and dog, and reinforce your dog for the behaviors that you want to see and use relationship-based training techniques.

## Returns

It is our hope that your new dog will remain in your home for the rest of his life and that any behavior issue will be worked on to the best of your ability. We are always available to help you with any concerns you may have. If you are unable to keep your dog for any reason, we ask you to return it to the Kitsap Humane Society; however, responsible re-homing is acceptable. This includes re-homing to a close friend or family member. If you rehome your dog, please let us know of any new owner information. Re-homing via social media, Craigslist or other pet re-homing site is in violation of your adoption contract. We ask that you contact us for any behavior related issues prior to making the decision to return. In many cases, a dog can stay in the home with some training and support. We will take back any dog that has been adopted from us within 90 days of your adoption. Please make an appointment in advance so we can prepare for its arrival. After 90 days, any dog that is returned to KHS is considered an “Owner Surrender” and is subject to the Owner Surrender policies and procedures.

To make an appointment to return or surrender your animal, please contact our admissions department at: (360)692-6977 ext. 1123.

For help with behavior issues, please contact: [behavior@kitsap-humane.org](mailto:behavior@kitsap-humane.org).

**Please be advised that we do not refund any adoption fees or offer exchanges for any reason.**

# House Training Your New Dog

Housetraining your dog or puppy requires time, patience, and consistency. The more consistent you are in following the basic housetraining procedures, the faster your dog or puppy will learn acceptable behavior. It may take several weeks to housetrain your dog, and with some of the smaller breeds, it might take longer.

## Establish a routine

Dogs learn best when they have a regular schedule. The schedule teaches him that there are times to eat, times to play and times to potty. They should go out to go potty first thing in the morning, about 30 minutes after eating, after play time, and before bed. They may need more frequent breaks throughout the day, depending on their age and breed.

Pick a bathroom spot outside, and always take your dog (on a leash) to that spot. While your dog is eliminating, use a word or phrase, like "go potty," that you can eventually use before he eliminates to remind them what to do.

Reward your dog every time they eliminate outdoors. Praise them or give a treat—but remember to do so immediately after they are finished eliminating, not after they come back inside the house. This step is vital, because rewarding your dog for eliminating outdoors is the only way to teach them what is expected of them. Before rewarding your dog, be sure they are finished eliminating.

Put your dog on a regular feeding schedule. Take your dog out for potty breaks about 30 minutes after they eat.

## Supervise your puppy

Don't give your puppy an opportunity to soil in the house; keep an eye on them whenever they are indoors. Watch for signs that your puppy needs to eliminate. Some signs are obvious, such as barking or scratching at the door, squatting, restlessness, sniffing around, or circling. When you see these signs, immediately grab the leash and take them outside to the bathroom spot. If your puppy eliminates, praise immediately and reward with a treat.

Crate Training can greatly assist in housetraining, especially when you have to leave your dog or puppy alone for long periods. See the next section on Crate Training for more information.

## Oops! Take mistakes in stride

Expect your dog or puppy to have a few accidents in the house—it's a normal part of housetraining. Here's what to do when that happens:



## **Interrupt your puppy when you catch him in the act of eliminating in the house.**

Make a startling noise (be careful not to scare him) or say "OUTSIDE!" Immediately take him to his bathroom spot, praise him, and give him a treat if he finishes eliminating there.

Don't punish your puppy for eliminating in the house. If you find a soiled area, it's too late to administer a correction. Just clean it up. Rubbing your puppy's nose in it, taking him to the spot and scolding him, or any other punishment will only make him afraid of you or afraid to eliminate in your presence. In fact, punishment will often do more harm than good.

Clean the soiled area thoroughly. Puppies are highly motivated to continue soiling in areas that smell like urine or feces. If you allow your puppy to eliminate frequently in the house, she'll get confused about where she's supposed to eliminate, which will prolong the housetraining process.

## **Crate Training**

### **Crating philosophy**

Crates are a wonderful addition to a dog's life, if used correctly and appropriately. Humans have bedrooms and dogs have crate. A good crate can be a dog's safe space, his "bedroom" where he can relax, take breaks from the rest of the world, and find comfort when he gets stressed or nervous.

Training a dog to use a crate is also an important part of potty training. Many dogs won't want to soil their space/home and if properly trained, they can learn to see the crate as their "space" and learn how to properly eliminate in a home environment

### **Selecting a crate**

An appropriately sized crate should be just large enough for a dog to stand up and turn around in. If your dog is still growing, choose a crate size that will accommodate his adult size. You can either block off the excess crate space so your dog can't eliminate at one end and retreat to the other or you can buy a crate specifically designed for a growing dog that has built-in dividers.

Crates also come in different styles, from hard sided plastic crates to folding wire crates or collapsible mesh/fabric crates designed for travel. Choose a crate that matches your needs and the dog – puppies will probably chew through mesh/fabric pop-up crates and the hard sided plastic crates can seem like scary black holes to some dogs, but can be harder to break out of than wire crates.

## The crate training process

Crate training can take days or weeks, depending on your dog's age, temperament, and past experiences. It's important to keep two things in mind: Take your time while crate training, break it down into small steps and only move on once your dog is fully comfortable. If you move too fast, you might scare your dog and backtrack with training. The crate should always be associated with good things – it is not meant to be used as a punishment or “time out” zone.

### Step 1: Introduce your dog to the crate

Place the crate in an area of your house where the family spends a lot of time, such as the family room. You can place a soft blanket, towel, or dog bed in the crate. Encourage your dog to enter the crate by dropping some delicious treats nearby, then just inside the door, and finally, all the way inside the crate. If he refuses to go all the way in at first, that's okay; don't force him to enter. You might need to take the door off or even take the whole top off the crate (if you are using a hard plastic one). Some dogs might be afraid to enter the crate and so will take more time on crate training. Others will eagerly go in as soon as they are given the opportunity. Each dog is an individual so make sure to take crate training at your dog's pace.

After introducing your dog to the crate, begin feeding him his regular meals near the crate. This will create a pleasant association with the crate.

Each time you feed him, place the dish a little further back in the crate. Start with the bowl next to the crate and then move it to the opening. Then, place it just inside the opening and progressively move it to the back of the crate. If your dog refuses to enter the crate to eat his food, you've moved it too far too fast. Go back a step or two until your dog is comfortable and then slowly put the bowl further in, over several feedings. Once your dog is standing comfortably in the crate to eat his meal, you can close the door while he's eating. Open the door as soon as he finishes his meal. With each successive feeding, leave the door closed a few minutes longer, until he's staying in the crate for ten minutes or so after eating.

You can also give your dog a long lasting snack (i.e. a frozen kong, a bully stick, a food puzzle) to encourage spending time in the crate. Open the door and toss the snack in and let your dog go after it. The first few times, don't close the crate door on him. Crate training isn't about tricking the dog into going into the crate – it's about creating good, happy associations with it and turning it into a safe, fun space for your dog.

Once your dog is reliably entering the crate for food and snacks, you can start teaching him to go into it on cue! With your dog nearby, take a yummy treat in your hand, say the cue (i.e. crate, kennel up, kennel, bed, etc) and toss the treat in. Once he goes inside, you can give him another treat or even a longer lasting snack or his dinner. The goal is to make going into the crate super awesome!

## Step 2: Lengthen the crating periods

After your dog is eating his regular meals in the crate with no sign of fear or anxiety, you can confine him there for short time periods while you're home. You can work on this a few different ways:

Start off by asking him to go into his crate. Once inside, give him his food, close the door, and leave the room. Only leave for a minute or two. Then come back in. Repeat during the next meal. Then slowly build up how long you are in the other room before returning.

Have your dog go into his crate and then reward him with a long lasting chew/treat. Close the door and then leave the room. Return a minute or two later. Gradually increase the length of time you are out of sight. Also make sure you practice this at different times throughout the day. If a dog is only crate for meals that occur on a schedule, he might not be so willing to go into the crate without his food bowl at a different time than he normally is fed.

Cue your dog to go into his crate and give him a treat. Close the door and walk away. Go into another room for a second or two and then return and let your dog out. Repeat, this time staying in the other room for a longer period. Just like with the other two ways, gradually increase the time you are gone in the other room. You can also throw in shorter sessions – if you worked up to being gone for 5 minutes, then the next session, return after just 1 minute and let your dog out. This will help make the behavior (relaxing in the crate) stronger. Make sure you do this training at different times throughout the day – several shorter sessions are more effective than one super long session.

Once your dog will stay quietly in the crate for about 30 minutes with you mostly out of sight, you can begin leaving him crated when you're gone for short time periods and/or letting him sleep there at night. Because each dog is an individual and learns at a different pace, this process may take several days or several weeks.

## Step 3: Part A: Crate your dog when you leave

After your dog can spend about 30 minutes in the crate without becoming anxious or afraid, you can begin leaving him crated for short periods when you leave the house.

Put him in the crate using your regular cue and a treat. Because dogs can get bored, make sure he has toys he likes to chew on or something to engage his brain (like a food puzzle or kong). Whenever you give your dog a new toy, observe him with it before leaving him alone. Some dogs will chew up and swallow toys and this can lead to a life threatening medical issue.

Vary at what point in your "getting ready to leave" routine you put your dog in the crate. Although he shouldn't be crated for a long time before you leave, you can crate him anywhere from five to 20 minutes prior to leaving. Don't make your departures emotional and prolonged—they should be matter-of-fact. Praise your dog briefly, give him a treat for entering the crate, and then leave quietly.

When you return home, don't reward your dog for excited behavior by responding to him in an excited, enthusiastic way. Keep arrivals low key to avoid increasing his anxiety over when you will return. Continue to crate your dog for short periods from time to time when you're home so he doesn't associate crating with being left alone.

### **Step 3: Part B: Crate your dog at night**

Have your dog go into his crate, rewarding him with a treat when he does so. If your crate isn't in your bedroom, you might want to move it closer to your location (or get another one to place closer to you) while you sleep. This can be especially important for a puppy. Puppies often need to go outside to eliminate during the night, and you'll want to be able to hear your puppy when he whines to be let outside. However, for adult dogs, sleeping in a crate near people might be preferable to being left alone in another part of the house. Each dog is an individual so plan your crate placement based off your household's need/flow and your dog.

### **A few final thoughts on crate training**

- If not used correctly, a dog can feel trapped and frustrated in a crate. Never use the crate as a punishment. Your dog will come to fear it and refuse to enter it. A crate should always be a place that your dog thinks of as safe and fun.
- Take your time with crate training. Some dogs quickly become comfortable. Others take time to learn that the crate is a good thing.
- Don't leave your dog in the crate too long. A dog that's crated day and night doesn't get enough exercise or human interaction and can result in serious behavior problems.
- Puppies under six months of age shouldn't stay in a crate for more than three or four hours at a time. They can't control their bladders and bowels for that long.

# Interacting Safely with Dogs

Just like humans, dogs are individuals who have their own unique personalities, likes and dislikes, and behavior. Any dog—from your best friend at home to the stray dog on the street—will react differently, and possibly unexpectedly, to people, places and other animals.

Because dogs are unique individuals, it is important to always be aware of the dogs' body language. All dogs are capable of biting. However, the point at which a dog will bite varies to each dog. Some dogs have a very high threshold – it takes a long time or a lot of things to push them to bite. Other dogs have a low bite threshold and are willing to bite over minor things. Most dog bites are not a result of "aggression". Instead, the majority of dog bites are the result of fear, frustration, or over-arousal. Just like humans deal with stress differently and may be more irritable when stressed, a dog in a stressful situation might have a lower bite threshold. Please remember when bringing your new dog home that his entire world just changed and he's stressed. Take it easy on him and go slow:

- Do not have lots of friends and family members come over to meet him.
- Give him time to settle in (2 to 3 weeks) before taking him to the vet and groomers (also stressful situations).
- Take time to slowly introduce him to other animals in your house.
- Be patient and expect to see his behavior and personality change as he settles in a bit.
- Listen to his body language and how he is communicating with you. If he is uncomfortable, don't push him.

## Approaching dogs in a safe manner

When it comes to a dog that isn't yours, first and foremost, ask the owner if it is OK to pet the dog before doing so. However, these guidelines to approaching a dog also apply to a dog that you see loose as well as your own personal dog.

Human body language – how you position/hold your body and approach – is very important and can influence a dog's behavior.

- Present your side to the dog—not your front—from a standing or squatting position.
- Don't lean over the dog.
- Let the dog come to you rather than approaching the dog or pulling it towards you with a leash.
- Don't rush towards the dog. If you have to approach, approach in a slow manner, walking in an arc towards the dog instead of a straight line, and presenting your side instead of frontally.
- Avoid direct eye contact (don't stare the dog in the eyes).

- Don't reach your hand out towards the dog or reach over its head.
- If you go to pet, pet the chest or the side. Many dogs do not like their heads being touched, especially the head patting/reaching that many people are prone to.
- Do not kiss or hug the dog.
- Don't ever put your face close to the dog's face.
- Talk in a friendly, calm voice. Avoid loud or excited outbursts that may startle the dog.

A good general rule of thumb when interacting with a dog is to ask yourself "Would I be okay with a stranger doing this to me?" Most people are not comfortable with strangers reaching towards them, leaning over them, grabbing them into a hug, etc. If it's rude for humans to do to other humans, it's generally rude to do so with dogs. Many dogs have learned to tolerate rude/uncomfortable greetings from people, but others are less comfortable and might be willing to bite.

**Based on the signals dogs use to communicate, it is important to know when to back off and when it is OK to continue interacting with the dog.**

Stop petting or otherwise interacting with the dog if you notice the following:

- A change in the dog's behavior from loose wagging postures to a tense body
- Licking of the lips or turning the head away from you or yawning
- Sudden changes in the environment (loud noises, lighting changes, another animal approaching, etc.)

A good rule of thumb is to play the "5 Second Game" – if you are interacting with a dog, count to 5 and then stop and remove your hands. What does the dog do?

- Does he engage you again with his paw or lean into you? Continue doing what you were doing.
- Does he just sit there, not interacting but not moving away? You can keep interacting, but do something different. He isn't thrilled with what you were doing but he isn't uncomfortable enough to move away either.
- Does he move away? That's his way of saying he is done interacting with you. Let him move away.



# Introducing Your New Dog to Other Household Animals

## Dogs

If you're adopting an adult dog, you will have already introduced your current dog to the new dog you are bringing home. Even if the meet and greet was uneventful, keep an eye on the two dogs and manage their time together the first few weeks.

If you've adopted a puppy, you will need to introduce your dog and puppy at home. Place both dogs on a leash and walk them around the yard at a distance, gradually getting closer. Give them breaks from each other after each short interaction. If things are going well, you can bring the puppy inside. Be sure to supervise closely over the first few days, and give the dogs breaks from each other as needed.

Dogs build relationships similarly to people – it takes time. Not all dogs have a love at first sight experience with their new doggie brother or sister.

Over the first few weeks they are home together, give them plenty of time apart but also let them spend time together. Separate them for feeding time and when you are not home and therefore cannot monitor them. Watch interactions with toys to ensure there aren't any disagreements about sharing toys.

In times of high excitement – like when a visitor comes over – it's a good idea to keep them apart or on leashes while they work on building a relationship. However, let them spend time together as well so they get to know one another. Going for walks together is a good way for dogs to start the bonding process.

## Cats

If you have cats in the home, please keep your new dog separated from the cats for several weeks, while you work through slow introductions. Let your new dog settle into home life with you. During this time of separation, you can take things that smell like the cat and place them in an area where the dog spends time, and take things that smell like the dog and put them in the room where your cat is confined. This allows them to get to know each others scents before the stress of actually seeing each other face to face.

You can also try feeding them a high-value treat or wet food on either side of a closed door. This allows them to smell each other through the gap under the door, and associate that smell with something positive (a tasty treat).

After a week or so of this process, if things are going well and both pets seem calm, you can let your dog start seeing the cat without actually interacting (like through a baby gate or fence) and slowly get used to its presence. Be sure to have your dog on a leash so it can't try to run through or jump over the baby gate. Encourage calm behavior by rewarding your dog with a treat when he is being calm around the cat. If he starts barking or jumping up on the gate, stop the introduction session and try again the next day.

Once you have had several positive sessions of the pets meeting through a baby gate, you can graduation to an in-person meet. When you start letting the cat and the dog into the same space, it helps to keep the new dog on the leash so he cannot have the opportunity to chase the cat. Also, always give the cat escape routes (either to a cat tree or through a baby gate) so it can remove itself from the dog. Be sure not to hold the cat during this interaction, as it can be stressed by not being able to run away if scared. The most important part of introducing your new dog to your cat is to give your dog several days to adjust to the new environment before even beginning the introduction process. Then, progress in slow increments.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the KHS Behavior Department or look up the Behavior Resources that are listed in this Adoption Packet.

# Dog Parks

Many people feel that the benefits of dog parks outweigh their risks. Others decide that they're not comfortable going to dog parks. To make the best decision for you and your dog, consider the pros and cons, read the guidelines below, and visit local dog parks without your dog just to watch and learn more.

## Who Benefits Most?

Well socialized dogs- Dog parks are best for dogs who love interacting with other dogs. They're not for dogs who simply tolerate other dogs, dogs who only get along with certain types of dogs, or dogs who routinely fight with other dogs.

Healthy dogs- To be well protected at the dog park, your dog should be fully vaccinated and have a good immune system. Since dogs do a lot of wrestling and running at the park, your dog should also be physically sound and free of chronic injuries or pain. Ask your veterinarian about your dog's health-readiness for going to dog parks. If your dog is sick, do not take your dog to your dog park until he is better.

## Who's Not an Ideal Candidate?

Puppies that are not fully vaccinated- It's essential for young puppies to meet and interact with a variety of different dogs during their Socialization Period which ranges from 3 weeks old til around 16 weeks of age. However, before they've been fully vaccinated, puppies are extremely vulnerable to potentially deadly contagious diseases, such as parvovirus. Because so many dogs frequent a dog park, the chances of exposure to dangerous pathogens are higher there. Not all dogs that go to dog parks are vaccinated, so it's your job to keep your puppy safe. Until your puppy has had all her shots, don't take her to the dog park. In addition, while it's important that a puppy gets to spend time with a variety of different dogs, it's also very important that those interactions are safe and fun.

You do not want your puppy to have a scary interaction with an adult dog. Not only could your puppy be hurt, but he can also develop a fear of other dogs. Puppies are still learning their dog skills and can be annoying to other dogs. Instead, you can arrange play dates at the homes of friends and family who have healthy dogs and puppies. You can also enroll your puppy in a puppy class that includes off-leash playtime in a safe, hygienic area.

Undersocialized, fearful, anxious, reactive, or non-dog friendly dogs- Many people mistakenly believe that dogs who fear or dislike other dogs just need more socialization. However, if your dog is fearful or nervous around other dogs, exposing her to the hectic environment of a dog park will only worsen her problems. Similarly, if your dog is reactive towards other dogs (lunging, barking, growling), visits to a dog park might exacerbate this behavior and put other people's pets at risk or ruin their enjoyment of the park. Even if your dog has good dog skills but is not good with other people or strangers, a dog park is not a safe place to take your dog. There are many people wandering around and you cannot control how others interact or engage with your dog. It's important to keep both your dog and others safe.

Dogs lacking appropriate manners - Some dogs don't bully other dogs on purpose, but they lack more refined social skills and just aren't capable of playing politely. Despite their good intentions, they seem socially clueless. They're usually high-energy dogs who enjoy play with lively wrestling, hard mouthing and crashing into other dogs like canine bumper cars. When their playmates dislike the rough treatment and try to communicate their desire to quit playing, these dogs don't seem to understand. They can also hurt or upset people at the dog park if they jump up and mouth on hands, arms or legs. Because rough players can easily spoil the fun for other dogs and their people, they're not good candidates for dog parks either.



# **Your Dog's Health**

KHS is committed to the health and welfare of the animals in our shelter, and provides high quality care in an effort to place animals who are healthy. Dogs and cats, however are living beings who are forever changing and we can not guarantee their health or behavior. In a large-scale kennel environment, whether it is a boarding kennel, breeder, retail outlet, or a shelter, a number of transmittable illnesses can be passed among animals within a common living area. Some animals may not exhibit symptoms during their stay at the shelter and may only show signs of illness once they have been placed in a loving home. By adopting, you have committed to providing your new dog with any medical care he or she may require. Additionally, KHS is not able to provide medical care to owned animals once they leave our care, so all medical expenses are the responsibility of the adopter. We provide medical information to the adopter when it is available. Kitsap Humane Society recommends that you visit a full service veterinarian within ten days of adoption. Any medical care or fees are the adopters sole responsibility.

## **Kennel Cough**

### **What should I know about kennel cough?**

Kennel cough (Tracheobronchitis) in dogs is a dry, hacking cough that appears about three to seven days after the dog is initially infected. Often it sounds as if the dog is trying to clear it's throat. Each dog that comes to KHS is vaccinated against kennel cough, however even with the vaccine is it possible for dogs to get it and spread it to other dogs.

### **What causes it and what are the symptoms?**

Kennel cough can be caused by a number of viruses as well as bacteria, and most often a combination of the two. Symptoms of kennel cough vary but can often include frequent coughing, runny eyes or nose, a green or opaque discharge from the eyes or nose, sneezing, loss of appetite, or lethargy.

### **How is it transmitted?**

Kennel cough is transmitted through the air in a similar manner to the way that human "colds" are transmitted. The airborne organisms, present in the expelled air of an infected dog, will be carried in the air in microscopically tiny water vapor or dust particles. The airborne organisms, if inhaled by a susceptible dog, can attach to the lining of the trachea and upper airway passages. Even in the most hygienic, well ventilated, spacious kennels, the possibility of a dog acquiring kennel cough exists. Kennel cough can be acquired from your neighbor's dog, from a daycare, from a dog park, or any area where dogs are present.

## How is it treated?

It is always a good idea to have any dog that is coughing examined by a full service vet. Should your vet determine that your dog does indeed have kennel cough, they may prescribe antibiotics or another medication. It is extremely important to have your pet seen by a veterinarian to determine if medical treatment is necessary as soon as possible to prevent it from turning into something more serious.

## How can I prevent my current dog from contracting kennel cough?

The best way to prevent your current dog from contracting kennel cough from your new dog is to ensure that your current dog has been fully vaccinated for a minimum of two weeks before bringing a new dog home.



# Veterinarian Partnership Program



**"Congratulations on your new pet! Kitsap Humane Society would like to introduce you to local veterinarians who have joined our **Veterinary Partnership Program**. Through the generous help of these participating veterinary clinics, your newly adopted pet will be given one complimentary office visit.**

We strongly encourage you to take this opportunity to visit a local veterinarian and establish a lifelong relationship for you and your new pet. While Kitsap Humane Society strives to adopt out pets in good health, many pets come to us with unknown medical histories and can develop illnesses that may not be evident until they are in their new home environment. In partnering with local veterinarians, it is our hope that you find the ongoing support and care that your pet needs to ensure it lives a long, healthy life with you."

--Dr. Jennifer Stonequist, Director of Shelter Medicine, Kitsap Humane Society

Please note that complimentary exams will vary from clinic to clinic. Some clinics may not offer a free wellness exam if your pet is sick has been previously diagnosed with a medical condition. Additionally, clinics may change the timeline of when discounts are provided or change the discounted amount at any time. Please contact the participating veterinary clinic of your choice prior to your pet's visit for further explanation of coverage. Veterinary clinics are listed in alphabetical order.

**Alder Trail Animal Hospital**

5757 Hwy 303 NE, Bremerton, WA 98311  
Phone: 360-377-3971

Complimentary "new Pet wellness exam". Must be redeemed within four weeks of adoption from KHS. Vaccinations, lab work, prescriptions, X-ray etc. are not included. Offer applies only to the recently adopted pet.

**All Creatures Animal Hospital**

4241 State Hwy 3 W, Bremerton, WA 98312  
Website: [www.allcreatures24hr.com](http://www.allcreatures24hr.com)  
Phone: 360-377-3801

Free wellness exam within 10 days of adoption.

\*If pet comes in sick or has any additional care needed, free wellness exam will not be honored. Please call for any additional questions or concerns

**Angeles Clinic for Animals**

160 Del Guzzi Drive, Port Angeles, WA 98362  
Phone: 360-452-7686

One complimentary office visit. Offer must be used within 14 days of adoption. Proof of adoption and vaccinations must be provided.

**Apple Tree Cove Animal Hospital**

11254 NE East 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Kingston, WA 98342  
Phone: 360-297-2898

Up to 8 weeks worth of complimentary exams. First exam must be redeemed within two weeks of adoption.

**Banfield Pet Hospital**

9589 Ridgetop Blvd NW, Silverdale, WA 98383  
Phone: 360-698-0850

Free wellness exam with proof of adoption.

**Bayview Veterinary Hospital**

4214 Kitsap Way, Bremerton, WA 98312  
Phone: 360-373-1465. Free wellness exams for healthy pets within 2 weeks of adoption.

**Belltowne Veterinary Center**

24161 NE State Hwy 3, Belfair, WA 98528  
Phone: 360-277-3800

Complimentary initial exam and a free dose of Revolution (flea and tick product). Offer must be redeemed within 10 days of adoption.

**Big Valley Veterinary Services**

25297 Big Valley Road NE, Poulsbo, WA 98370  
Phone: 360-697-1650

Free wellness exam within 10 days of adoption.

**Bremerton Animal Hospital**

613 N Callow, Bremerton, WA 98312  
Phone: 360-373-7333

Free wellness exam within 10 days of adoption.

**Brookside Veterinary Hospital, Inc.**

13701 118<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98329  
Phone: 253-857-7302

One complimentary office visit within two weeks of adoption.

**Cedar Creek Animal Clinic**

2950 SE Mile Hill Dr, Port Orchard, WA 98366  
Phone: 360-876-9009

Free wellness exam within 10 days of adoption.

**Central Valley Animal Hospital**

10310 Central Valley Rd. NE, Poulsbo, WA 98370  
Website: [www.centralvalleyanimal.com](http://www.centralvalleyanimal.com)  
Phone: 360-930-5142

One free exam to newly adopted pets within 30 days of adoption.

**Chimacum Valley Veterinary Hospital**

820 Chimacum Rd, Port Hadlock, WA 98339  
Website: [www.chimacumvet.com](http://www.chimacumvet.com)  
Phone: 360-385-4488

One free exam to newly adopted pets within two weeks of adoption.

**Clifton Hollow Animal Hospital**

1016 NE Forest Rock Lane, Ste 120, Poulsbo, WA 98370  
Website: [www.cliftonhollowanimalhospital.com](http://www.cliftonhollowanimalhospital.com)  
Phone: 360-930-6120

One free wellness exam within 10 days of adoption.

**Companion Animal Wellness Center**

16404 Lemolo Shore Drive Poulsbo, WA 98370  
Phone: 360-779-6534

One complimentary exam within three weeks of adoption. Payment plans for preventive care and procedures are available to clients in good standing. Other product promotions are periodically available through our vendors.

**Hadlock Veterinary Clinic**

711 Ness Corner Rd, Port Hadlock, WA 98339  
Phone: 360-385-2020

One free wellness exam within 10 days of adoption.

**Harbor Animal Hospital**

4225 Burnham Dr, Gig Harbor, WA 98332  
Phone: 253-851-7866

One free wellness exam within 10 days of adoption.

**Hurricane Ridge Veterinary Hospital**

660 N. 7th Ave Sequim, WA 98382  
Phone: 360-681-0117

One discounted wellness exam within 3-7 from adoption. Call for details.

**Fair Isle Animal Clinic**

17312 Vashon Hwy SW, PO Box 67, Vashon, WA 98070  
Phone: 206-463-3607

One free exam within two weeks of adoption.

**Family Veterinary Clinic**

3217 E Mahogany St, Port Angeles, WA 98362  
Phone: 360-452-9682

One complimentary exam within 72 hours adoption.

**Kitsap Veterinary Hospital**

3036 Bethel Rd SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366  
Phone: 360-876-2021

Complimentary initial exam within one week of adoption. Frequently offered promotions on website. Paw Plans - several different wellness care plans, offered at a 25% discount off regular pricing that allow clients to make monthly payments. Promotions are subject to change.

**North Kitsap Veterinary Clinic**

18981 State Hwy 305, Poulsbo, WA 98370  
Phone: 360-779-3414

One free wellness exam within 10 days of adoption.

\*If pet comes in sick or has any additional care needed, free wellness exam will not be honored. Please call for any additional questions or concerns.

**Oak Bay Animal Hospital**

975 Oak Bay Rd, Port Hadlock, WA 98339  
Phone: 360-385-7297

One free wellness exam within 10 days of adoption

**Peninsula Mobile Veterinary Clinic**

19689 7<sup>th</sup> Ave NE #327, Poulsbo, WA 98370  
Phone: 360-598-3900

A mobile service fee (\$79 to \$104) applies for all home visits, but a complimentary new patient exam (\$69 value) will be offered within three months of adoption.

**Port Townsend Veterinary Clinic**

1445 F St., Port Townsend, WA 98368  
Website: [www.chimacumvet.com](http://www.chimacumvet.com)  
Phone: 360-379-1133

We offer one free exam to newly adopted pets within two weeks of adoption.

**Poulsbo Animal Clinic**

19494 7<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Suite 100, Poulsbo, WA 98370  
Phone: 360-779-4640

Free introductory exam during the first month you own your new pet, up to \$100 in medical services to treat any illness or injury during the first six months and free nail trims for the first year (please call to schedule).

**Poulsbo Marina Vet Clinic**

19570 10<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Poulsbo, WA 98370  
Phone: 360-779-4166

One complimentary exam within 10 days of the adoption (Flexible within reason).

**Puget Sound Veterinary Specialists**

1730 Pottery Ave, Suite 120 Port Orchard, WA 98355  
Phone: 360-871-9651

Email: info@psvs.vet

If your primary care veterinarian suspects that your newly adopted family member might have cancer, Dr. Rizzo specializes in Oncology and is offering a free initial consultation appointment for adopted animals within 6 months of adoption. Patients should be referred by their primary care veterinarian and proof of adoption site and date should be brought to your consultation appointment. Diagnostics are not included.

If your newly adopted family member is having eye problems, Dr. Boyd specializes in Ophthalmology and is offering a free initial consultation appointment for adopted animals within 6 months of adoption. Patients should be referred by their primary care veterinarian and proof of adoption site and date should be brought to your consultation appointment. Some ophthalmic diagnostics might be included.

**Ridgetop Animal Hospital**

1193 Tahoe Lane, Silverdale, WA 98383  
Phone: 360-692-7387

One free wellness exam within 10 days of adoption.

**Tender Touch Animal Hospital**

27099 Miller Bay Rd Ste C, Kingston, WA 98370  
Phone: 360-881-0099

One complimentary office visit within one month of adoption date.

One free wellness exam within 10 days of adoption.

**University Place Veterinary Hospital**

6715 Regents Blvd W, University Place, WA  
Phone: 253-565-4040

One complimentary wellness examination and doctor consultation. Redeemable within four weeks of your adoption date.

**VCA Central Kitsap**

2238 NW Bucklin Hill Rd, Ste 100, Silverdale, WA 98383  
Phone: 360-692-6162

**24-HOUR EMERGENCY CARE****VCA Olympic Animal Hospital**

3422 NW Byron St, Silverdale, WA 98383  
Website: [www.vcahospitals.com/olympic](http://www.vcahospitals.com/olympic)  
Phone: 360-692-0919

One complimentary office visit and physical examination for all adopted pets. This includes a complimentary dose of Revolution for the prevention of parasites including fleas. Must be redeemed within two weeks of adoption.

**Wheaton Way Veterinary Hospital**

1216 Ivy Rd, Bremerton, WA 98310  
Phone: 360-377-0078

One complimentary wellness examination and doctor consultation. Redeemable within four weeks of your adoption date.

**Winslow Animal Clinic Inc.**

800 Erickson Ave NE, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110  
Phone: 206-842-6621

One free wellness exam within 10 days of adoption.

**Woodside Animal Hospital**

1601 Woods Rd SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366  
Phone: 360-871-3335

Email: [contact@woodsideanimalhospital.com](mailto:contact@woodsideanimalhospital.com)

One complimentary office visit will be provided at no charge within 14 days of adoption. Any diagnostics, vaccines or medications will be an additional charge.

**4 Paws Veterinary Clinic**

9822 SW Gorsuch Rd.  
Vashon, WA 98070  
206-567-7782

\*Free Wellness Exam within two weeks of adoption

# They Don't Need Much, But They Do Need You

You help when you adopt an animal, when you attend and support one of our special events, and when your generous donation arrives to support the animals at KHS. Most important, you give them all hope for a future full of love and happiness.

## What is the power of your gift?

- \$30 is the average cost of an animal's care for one day at the shelter.
- \$75 will support one spay/neuter surgery.
- \$150 would give an animal in need of behavioral rehabilitation 3 hours with a trainer.
- \$210 is enough to support the care for a kitten at our shelter for one week.
- \$250 could support the cost of one medical procedure to help save an animal's life
- \$500 will pay for the medicine needed to treat a sick animal for one week.
- \$900 would cover the expenses for an animal at our shelter for one month.

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution today to help homeless animals in Kitsap County!



### DONATE BY MAIL:

Kitsap Humane Society  
9167 Dickey Road NW  
Silverdale, WA 98383

### DONATE ONLINE:

[www.kitsap-humane.org/financial-contributions](http://www.kitsap-humane.org/financial-contributions) or  
using this QR code (left) with your smart phone.





All of the information in this packet and  
much more can be found on our website:  
**[www.kitsap-humane.org](http://www.kitsap-humane.org)**



**Thank you again for choosing to rescue!**