

Congratulations on adopting your new dog and becoming a part of the Camden County Animal Shelter family! Inside this packet you will find some articles that our experienced volunteers hope you will find helpful in raising and training your new family member! Below are some Do's and Don'ts that we have put together concerning your first few days with your new pet. Please remember that your new dog is unfamiliar with you, your surroundings and his or her place in your home. We hope these suggestions will make the transition as easy as possible on you and your pet!

### **Getting Your New Pet Settled**

Bringing a new dog home is a very exciting time! But please try to remember that your new dog is unfamiliar with you and his or her surroundings. Your pet needs quiet time to adjust from Shelter life. Although it is tempting, now is not the time to throw a big party to celebrate - Give your dog a few days to settle in.

**DO:** Give your dog a quiet place to spend some alone time getting to know his or her new surroundings. Try introducing your dog into your home by them comfortable with one room at a time. If you have a fenced yard, let your dog explore while on a leash with you. If you are using a crate or have special sleeping area, place some blankets or towels with your scent on them in the crate. This will help create a bond with your new dog. Put your new dog on a schedule for eating and exercise. Dogs need a routine, just as children do. If you are not an experienced dog handler, we recommend basic obedience training with a professional trainer. Your dog will be with you for many years to come and everyone wants a well-behaved pet!

**DON'T:** Give your new dog immediate run of the entire house. He or she needs restrictions and time to adjust. Don't invite over too many guests until your new dog has adjusted and is comfortable and confident. Don't have any other animals visit your home until your dog is adjusted.

### **Getting Your New Pet Settled After Spay/Neuter**

In this packet, we have included a helpful article on this topic. Spay/neuter is surgery. Your dog has been under anesthesia and will be not be his or herself for a few days. Your dog is experiencing serious discomfort and probably some level of pain.

**DO:** Give your dog a quiet, soft place to lie down and recover. He or she will need lots of rest and quiet. Keep on eye on your dog's behavior. It is rare, but some dogs can develop complications after surgery. If you are unsure, seek professional veterinary assistance immediately.

**DON'T:** Allow children to play near your new dog while he is she is recovering. Don't bathe your new dog for at least 5 days after the surgery. Don't allow your dog to run or jump. Quiet leash walks to use the bathroom are best for your pet. Don't allow your pet to excessively lick the incision site. If this occurs, get a cone collar for your dog. He or she may look a little funny, but this will prevent infection and complications.

### **Introducing Your New Dog to Your Children**

Your children will be extremely excited that they have a new pet! Please remember that your dog has adjusted to Shelter life which does not include children. Going slowly will be for your entire family.

**DO:** Wait until a short period of adjustment for your dog, then allow your children “visiting time” with their new pet. Encourage them to be quiet and gentle with the dog. Having your children give your new dog treats and pour the food for your new pet is a great to encourage bonding. Encourage your children to participate in whatever training program you have chosen for your dog.

**DON'T:** Allow children unsupervised time with the dog right away. You should always be in the room to teach your children the proper way to interact with your new pet. Don't allow your children to have lots of playmates over right away to see the dog until after his or her adjustment period.

### **Introducing Your New Dog to Your Other Dogs**

In this packet, we have included a helpful article on this topic. Please remember that your new dog is unsure of his or her place in your “pack.” Although you have had a dog meet at our Shelter, bringing your new dog into your existing territory may pose new challenges.

**DO:** Introduce your dogs slowly and always under your supervision. We recommend that one or both dogs be kept on a soft leash at all times. If a problem arises, you can easily grab onto a trailing leash, where you may not be able to reach a collar. Feed your dogs in separate areas in separate bowls. Give any toys or treats separately to the dogs so that there are no jealousy issues.

**DON'T:** Allow the dogs any unsupervised time together until an adjustment period has passed. Don't allow your dogs to sleep in the same place or share bowls. Don't leave any toys or treats lying around that the dogs may fuss over.

### **Introducing Your New Dog to Your Cats**

Many cats and dogs can live happy lives together! In this packet, we have included a helpful article on this topic. Your new dog has already been “cat-tested” at our Shelter. However, there is a period of adjustment.

**DO:** Introduce your new dog to your cat while on a leash. Allow them to sniff and check each other out but pull your dog back if your cat becomes frightened.

**DON'T:** Give your dog full run of your home. Keep him or her in a designated area so that your cat knows where your dog is at all times. Don't allow your dog to chase your cat.

Please remember that while your pet is gone from our Shelter, he is not gone from our hearts! You will receive a call in a few days from one of our After Care Specialist to see how you and your new dog are adjusting. You can also E-mail us at [CamCoShelter@yahoo.com](mailto:CamCoShelter@yahoo.com). We are here to help make sure that you and your dog understand each other.

CCAS wishes you many, many years of health and happiness with your new pet!