

Animal Adoption Welcome Packet



1900 Hidden Rock Lane
Maidens, VA 23102
804-556-5302

Congratulations on your new family member!

Dear Adopting Family,

We are so happy that you have chosen to take a four-legged companion home from the Goochland County Animal Shelter and Adoption Center! While your new family member spent time at the shelter, the staff and volunteers had the pleasure of caring for and socializing with him/her. The medical team ensured s/he is up to date on vaccines, testing, and spay or neuter if appropriate. It will take more time, but it is such a joy to see the animals who come into the shelter's care learn to trust and love their new family.

While there will be an adjustment period, please know that in addition to the information provided in this package and on the website, there are local training resources available. And even though the medical staff has examined your animal, it is important that you have your new pet examined by your veterinarian who will be invaluable throughout this transition period and the animal's entire life.

We here at Goochland Pet Lovers work tirelessly to financially support the medical care the animals at the shelter receive as well as paying for the Hill's Feeding Program, microchips and spay and neuter costs. We ensure the Goochland community is thriving with good animal care through our Good Neighbor Outreach program where we provide free preventive vet care to income-qualified Goochland and Powhatan residents. We also work with all third graders in the Goochland Public School System through our Teaching Kindness Animal Welfare program.

If you would like to learn more or get involved with **Goochland Pet Lovers**, please visit our website at **goochlandpetlovers.com** or call **804.556.LOVE (5683)**.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers at Goochland Pet Lovers, congratulations on the new addition to your family!



Lori Elliott, DVM
GPL Board Chair



General Information

Adoptions

Dogs: \$90

Cats: \$75

When you adopt from Goochland County Animal Shelter & Adoption Center, your adoption fee covers:

- Spay or neuter
- Age-appropriate vaccinations
- Rabies vaccine, if older than 12 weeks
- Heartworm test for dogs
- FeLV/FIV test for cats
- Heartworm treatment for dogs if heartworm positive



Lost Pets

In almost all circumstances, Animal Protection is the first entity notified when a lost or stray pet is found. Please be sure to file a lost report with us in the event that your beloved pet goes missing. Below are the fees for reclaiming lost pets at the Goochland County Animal Shelter & Adoption Center.

\$20 Reclamation Fee unless the pet was wearing its county license or was reported missing.

\$15 per day after pet's first two days housed in our facility (added to the above fee)

Example: A four-day holding period at the shelter will be a \$50 fee

Local Ordinances

Art. 3 Sec. 3-84 The owner of any dog four months or older shall pay a license tax as follows:

- Lifetime Dog License - \$10
- Multi-dog License (Up to 20 dogs) - \$25
- Multi-dog License (Up to 50 dogs) - \$50

Art. 2 Sec. 3-27 All dogs and cats are required to have a rabies vaccination by a licensed vet upon reaching four months of age.

Art. 3 Sec. 3-54 It shall be unlawful for any dog over the age of four months to run at large without a county dog license attached to its collar.

Art. 3 Sec. 3-53 It shall be unlawful for any dog to run at large in the county during the period of April 1 - May 31. It shall be unlawful for any dog to run at large on county-owned property at any time during the year.

Helpful Tips for New Dog Owners

We know how exciting it is to bring home a new pet! We also know you may have questions about how best to support your new pup while they acclimate to your home. On this page, you will find some helpful tips and things to look out for.

Have Patience

It is important to remember that your new dog has been through a lot of changes recently. Your pet will be getting used to a new home and a new family—remember to take things slow. All family members should know the proper way to approach a dog.

The 3 Day, 3 Week, 3 Month Rule of Adopting a Dog

IN THE FIRST 3 DAYS, YOUR DOG

- Might feel overwhelmed
- May feel scared and uncertain
- May not want to eat or drink
- Might want to hide
- May not feel comfortable being themselves



AFTER 3 WEEKS, YOUR DOG

- May start to settle in
- May be getting used to the environment
- May be getting into a routine
- Might start to feel comfortable being themselves



AFTER 3 MONTHS, YOUR DOG

- May be completely comfortable
- Might have built complete trust with you
- May feel completely secure
- May be set in a routine



Introductions

A slow approach is best when introducing your dog to other pets in the home. For a dog to dog introduction, go to a neutral area like a park. Be patient and do not force any interaction. Use positive reinforcement for good behavior. Each dog should have their own food and water bowls. Treats and toys should only be given when the dogs are separated.

For a dog to cat introduction, a see-through divider (ex. baby gate) is a great tool. Allow the pets to see each other without allowing contact. Be sure to keep your dog leashed if he needs to be led away from the divider.

Enrichment

The key to a happy, healthy dog is regular enrichment and allowing them to engage in their innate behaviors. These behaviors include playing, chasing, smelling, chewing and scavenging. Food puzzles are a great way to slow down your dog's eating and provide mental stimulation. Dogs are also social animals and will benefit from playing with you or other friendly pets.

New Dog Shopping List

- Dog Food
- Dog Crate
- Dog Toys or Enrichment Items
- Collar with ID Tag
- Leash
- Microchip
- Food & Water Bowls
- Heartworm Preventative
- Veterinary Wellness Check
- Flea & Tick Preventative

Necessities



Helpful Items



- Dog Bed
- Nail Clippers
- Brush
- Baby Gate or Indoor Gate
- Pooper Scooper
- Canine Dental Kit
- Dog Shampoo & Conditioner



Understand Body Language

Your dog's body language will help you understand how they are feeling. A loose posture (no facial tension, ears relaxed) can signal that your dog is calm. A stiff posture (tucked tail, shying away) can signal that the dog is not interested in interacting.

Boundaries

Having a routine and establishing boundaries is important in helping your dog understand what is expected. This will provide a sense of security for your pet. Make sure he has a space he can retreat to when needed (ex. bed or crate).

Health

It is important to familiarize yourself with the signs of good health in your pet. This can help you identify when a visit to the vet is needed. It is important to contact your veterinarian if you notice any change in your pet's behavior or health.

EYES Should be clear and bright, no discoloration, cloudiness, or tearing. Heavy discharge is not normal, especially if yellow or green.

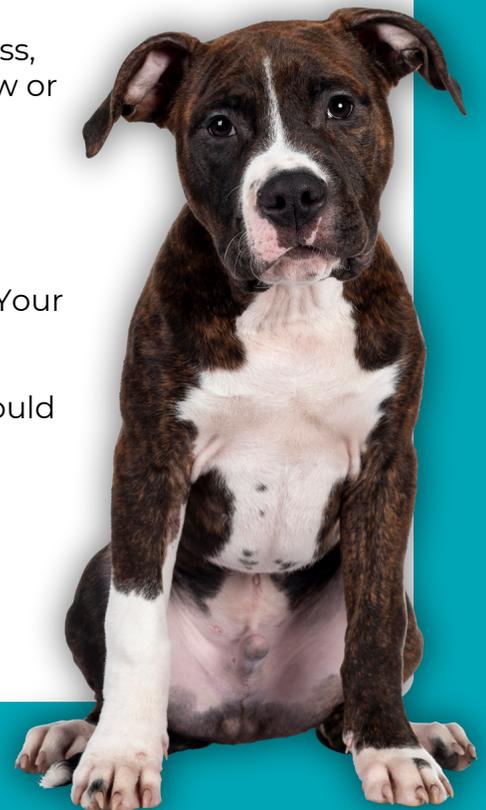
EARS Should be free of odor and discharge. Any redness or swelling could be the sign of an ear infection.

MOUTH Gums should be pink with no swelling or redness. Your dog shouldn't have bad breath or tartar build-up.

NOSE May be moist at times with varying temperature. Should be free of any discharge, cracks, or irritations.

COAT Should be smooth and shiny - free of lumps, tumors, fleas, and ticks.

LEGS Check your dog's legs for any swollen areas, paws for lodged objects, and the condition of their nails.



Heartworm Disease

While Goochland County Animal Shelter & Adoption Center treats Heartworm for dogs who have it, it is important for dog owners to understand the disease, how it's spread, and how to prevent it.

What is Heartworm Disease?

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal disease in the United States and many other parts of the world. It is caused by worms that live in the heart, lungs, and associated blood vessels of affected pets, causing severe lung disease, heart failure, and damage to other organs in the body.

How is Heartworm Disease contracted?

Heartworm disease is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. Though the disease typically coincides with mosquito season, it is possible for dogs to become infected during any time of the year.



What are signs of Heartworm Disease in dogs?

In the early stages, there may be no signs. Early signs include a mild, persistent cough, reluctance to exercise, fatigue after moderate activity, and weight loss. As Heartworm Disease progresses, dogs may develop heart failure and the appearance of a swollen belly due to fluid build-up in the abdomen.

How is Heartworm Disease treated?

There are several methods used to treat Heartworm Disease depending on the severity. The most common method is through the use of an injectable drug that kills adult heartworms in the heart and adjacent vessels. During this time, the dog will need to be on strict rest to prevent complications as the worms are dying.

How can you prevent Heartworm Disease?

You can prevent Heartworm Disease by administering heartworm preventative in the form of a monthly pill or injection that you can obtain from your veterinarian. It is also important to test for Heartworm Disease annually for early detection even if your dog has been on preventative.

House Training and Resource Guarding



House Training

The most important thing you want to do is establish a routine schedule for your new puppy or dog. Even adult dogs can require some level of house training. Keep in mind that the size of your dog affects how long they can hold it. The smaller the dog, the more frequent they will need potty breaks.

- Begin by taking your dog out FIRST thing in the morning, 30 minutes after eating, and right before bedtime. This will help to develop a solid routine for you and your new pup!
- Until your dog is perfectly house trained, do not leave them unsupervised unless they are in a dog-proof area or crate. Begin by taking your dog out every two hours, more often for puppies under four months of age.
- If you see your dog sniffing or circling in the house, take them outside immediately. This is a sign that they may need to use the bathroom. Praise and reward with a treat if they go potty outdoors.
- If your dog makes a mistake, do NOT scold or punish them. They will not make the connection between your behavior and their accident.

Resource Guarding

Resource guarding refers to dogs showing aggressive behavior when you or another pet approaches something they find valuable, such as toys or food. It is best to address this problem early so it does not escalate.

- Because resource guarding can escalate, it is important to know the early signs. Growling, ears pointed backward, lip-licking, sudden and obvious stiffness, and hyperfixating on an object can all be early signs.
- To avoid resource guarding between dogs, make sure there are equal amounts of food, toys, beds, or treats. Teach “give it” or “leave it” cues by pairing the dog giving something up with a reward. And always offer a trade if you need to take something away.
- Separate dogs into different rooms during mealtime to prevent food aggression.
- Consistently reward good behavior and do not punish “bad” behavior. Work to build your dog’s confidence and be alert in any new situations that could bring out guarding tendencies.

