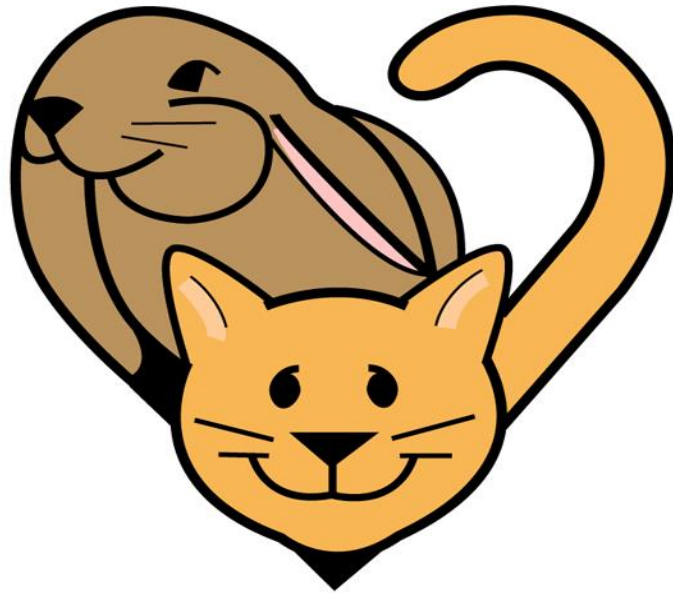


# Dog Care



## Furry Friends Refuge

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# Dog Care

## What do I need?

- Quality dog/puppy food
- Food/water dish
- Toys appropriate for the dog's age/size
- Treats that may be broken up into small pieces
- Crate/kennel appropriate for the dog's age/size

## Food

Feed a measured supply of high quality dog or puppy food (up to 1 year), based on the size and age of the dog. Take your dog to the veterinarian if they refuse food for a 24 hour period. **WE FEED OUR DOGS PURINA DOG CHOW COMPLETE.**

## Water

Your dog should have access to clean water at all times.

## Toys

Provide lots of toys for your dog, both toys they can enjoy alone, and those that are interactive with you. Balls, stuffed animals, squeaky rubber toys, and Kongs are all great toys for them to play with. Be sure to supervise your new dog when providing them with a new toy. Stuffed toys can easily be chewed through by some dogs, and others may play nicely with the same one for years. Kongs are typically non-destructible and can be filled with treats or a bit of peanut butter to keep the dog entertained trying to get them out of the inside.

## House Training

Most dogs will house train easiest when kept in a crate/kennel while you are not directly watching them. The crate should be large enough for the dog to stand up and turn around, but do not provide a dog that is not crate trained a large area or they will use the back part of the crate to soil in. Take the dog out often to the same area to relieve itself and praise them when they do well. If they take care of business, you know that you can trust them for a limited time out in the house so use that time for some out of crate time. Take them out within 15-20 minutes of feeding, directly after waking, and before going to bed as well as about every 30 minutes to 1 hour in between. As the dog gets the idea, you can lengthen the amount of time. Keep in mind that a puppy cannot hold it as long as the older dog.

Watch for the signs that your dog gives when they need to “go”. Most dogs show restlessness, start going to the door, circling, or start smelling for a spot. If you see them exhibit those signs, take them out immediately. If you are not directly watching the dog, they will need to be in their crate. Be patient. There are usually mistakes in the beginning, but if you are consistent, the dog will catch on quickly. It is important that you do not punish the dog for mistakes. If you catch them in the act, take them outside immediately and praise them when they go in the correct place. Remember, it is your responsibility to show the dog the correct way. If there is a mistake, learn from it, you were either not watching close enough or not taking them out often enough.

## **Where will your new dog sleep? Where will your new dog be when you are not home?**

These are questions you will need to strongly consider, preferably before your dog comes home with you. The dog should **NEVER** be brought into a home and given the entire house to roam right away. They should be kept in a separate small area like a crate where they sleep and where they can be while you are not supervising them. If you would like to have the dog sleep with you, when the dog moves, that means it is time to take them outside. An alternative to a crate while you are not home are a small room like a bathroom, but keep in mind that if it is a puppy, it may chew on woodwork and a larger area will allow the dog or puppy to have an area to soil without it being in it so they may be much harder to house train.

You can take them out into the other areas of the house for short periods of time and extend the periods of time based on their reaction.

## **Introductions with Other Cats/Dogs**

**Slow, slow, slow.** Give the dog time to adapt to the new home before introducing to the existing cat/dog. Give them at least a couple days before your first introduction to other animals. It is a stressful time for them and they will react better when they feel more confident. During this time, the new dog and the existing animals are getting used to the other’s smell without having interaction.

**Dog to Existing Dog** – It is always best to introduce dogs in a neutral territory outdoors where there is plenty of room to walk around and neither dog will ever feel cornered. Each dog should be on a leash and there must be one person to handle each dog. Walk the dogs around where each other have been at first and allow them to sniff the ground. Slowly lead them closer to each other. Be careful not to allow the leashes to get twisted into each other, but allow them to walk around each other and get acquainted with the smell of the other. Just let it happen naturally and typically it goes better. Always supervise the interaction. Keep them separated when you are not at home until you are absolutely sure that interaction will be safe.

**New Dog to Existing Cat** -- The dog should be on a leash and on the other side of a gate or screen door from the cat at first meeting. If this introduction is successful, the dog may then be on a leash with the new cat in a crate for protection. Look for signs of stress and discontinue if that occurs. At no time should the dog be allowed to show aggression toward the cat. If that occurs, remove the dog from the area and try again another time. Once all is well with nose to nose meeting through the crate and on leash, you can introduce off leash and without the carrier. Always supervise the interaction! Keep the dog and cat separated when you are not at home until you are absolutely sure that your cat is safe around the dog.

## Important “Do’s”

**Take your new dog to the vet** within 3-10 days for a check-up. If you do not work with an existing vet, we have agreements with the following vets for a free first vet exam:

- Banfield – Petsmart locations Always
- Broderick Animal Clinic – 10 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Waukeg, (515) 987-1447
- Family Pet Veterinary Center West – 1215 Prospect Avenue, West Des Moines, (515) 224-9747
- Family Pet Veterinary Center South – 1415 Army Post Road, Des Moines, (515) 285-4114
- Family Pet Veterinary Center Norwalk – 1326 Sunset Drive, Norwalk, (515) 981-0317
- Highland Park Animal Hospital - 4270 NW 6th Drive, Des Moines, IA (515) 243-4665
- Jordan Creek Animal Hospital – 3401 EP True Parkway, West Des Moines, (515) 224-9500
- Northwest Veterinary Hospital – 7507 Dennis Dr, Des Moines, (515) 276-4549
- Oaks Veterinary Clinic – 2030 27th St, Des Moines, (515) 279-3654
- Pet Medical Center of Urbandale – 4450 128<sup>th</sup> St, Urbandale, (515) 331-9035
- Starch Pet Hospital – 2222 University Ave, Des Moines, (515) 283-1576
- The Animal Hospital of Adel – 1126 Greene Street, Adel, (515) 993-3410
- Tri County Veterinary Clinic – 650 Highway T14, Pella, (641) 628-4040
- University West Pet Clinic – 8145 University Blvd, Clive, (515) 223-8185
- Urban Pet Hospital – 3601 104th Street, Urbandale, (515)727-0607
- Value Vet – 4654 Northwest 86th Street, Urbandale, (515) 278-1011
- Westfield Vet Hospital- 8789 NW 54th Ave, Johnston, IA 50131 (515) 986-5738

Always **watch your dog for signs of illness**. A dog with a lack of appetite, lethargy, or diarrhea should be taken to the veterinarian for an exam. It is easy for a dog to get dehydrated if they are not eating or drinking properly or if they have diarrhea.

**Spend a lot of time with your dog**, especially if he or she does not have an animal companion. They need a lot of reassurance in this time of big changes, and lots of play to stay a happy dog!

**Brush the dog** at least a couple times a week even though they may not be shedding. It will start a routine and will get the dog used to brushing.

**Check their nails to see if they need trimmed**—they grow very fast. Trim off just the tips of the nails to avoid injury to the dog or you may take them to the vet or to Furry Friends Refuge for nail trimming.

## Important “Don’ts”

**NEVER let your dog go outside** unless contained either in a fenced yard or with a tie out. The dog should always wear a collar and be supervised when outside. If you have a fenced yard, they will love to run and play, especially with you or another dog to play with, but supervise closely to start to make sure they do not find any escape routes. If you must use a tie out, make sure it is placed so that they cannot get caught around anything, and supervise to make sure no other animal will get to them as they have no way to get away. Also, it is important that if left outside for more than just a short relief break that they have ample shade in the summer and a coat and/or shelter in the winter. Iowa weather is very cold or very hot, and if you are cold or hot, so is the dog. While dogs enjoy some being outside for some exercise, all dogs adopted from Furry Friends Refuge should always primarily be inside companion pets. If that situation changes for any reason, the dog needs to be returned to Furry Friends Refuge and we will find them another inside home.

**Do NOT play rough with your dog** or promote biting in play. You do not want to teach your dog to bite your hands. If your dog does bite during play, make a loud “ouch” noise loud enough to startle the dog and then replace your hand with an appropriate toy. If your dog keeps up with the rough play, it is time for him or her to go to their safe area for a time out.