

Your New Dog



Advice from Dr. Patricia McConnell

Go home. Encourage new adopters to take their dog straight home. As tempted as they may be to stop for pet supplies or show off their new pup to friends and family, the sooner they get the dog home, the sooner they can all settle into their new lives. Providing calm and routine will make that happen a lot quicker.

Leash up. It is critical that new adopters keep their dogs on a leash at all times during transport. Suggest that they bring someone along to help with the dog in the car, especially if the dog is not going to be crated--and tell them to be prepared for the possibility of the dog trying to bolt once the door opens.

Enjoy the outdoors. Once they're home, adopters should remain outside with the dog on leash until she urinates and, ideally, defecates. From day one the dog will start to learn where she is expected to relieve herself.

Control the environment. Inside the house, adopters should keep the dog on a leash for a while in order to slowly introduce her to the new environment. Once the adopter is comfortable, the leash can be removed.

Introduce slowly. If possible, introduce the dog to each family member separately. That way she'll have the opportunity to get to know the sight and smell of each individual without being overwhelmed.

[ASPCApro Blog](#) on October 9, 2013

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Single meeting to relationship building (Dog to Dog meetings)

First impressions aren't everything.

Dogs are social animals. As such, an initial reaction does not necessarily predict the future relationship because a relationship is something that develops over time. Did you ever have an experience where you didn't like someone the first time you met, but the more you learned about him, the more you were intrigued? Dog to dog relationships are no different. Likewise, a first good impression does not guarantee they will become best friends.

What's a proper introduction?

How they meet also affects the outcome. A gradual and low stress introduction would be to walk them together; initially at a distance and reducing the distance over time. Handling the leash loosely will allow dogs to move without too much restraint. Limiting their choices and movements tends to have negative effects. Soft body postures are good signs just like how your body will relax when you smile.

Managing at home

There are areas of conflict in a home. Doorways, where they eat, sleep or that special spot next to you can all be considered valuable real estate and all dogs want to be the first to claim it.

All toys should be picked up prior to multiple dogs entering a room or being left alone in a room, until you know they can play well with others.

Do not feed them side by side or from the same bowl, until it has been determined that food is not a resource that one might want to protect.

You may want to support each dog's role while teaching them that good things happen to those who wait. You may also want to teach them that good things happen when the other dog is around.

Michelson Found Animals Registry

www.found.org

Thanks for protecting your pet with a microchip! This animal care organization is going to link your email address and other contact info to the chip in the free **Michelson Found Animals Registry!** *If you don't use email, ask a friend or family member if you can use theirs to register your pet.*

What you'll need to do:

- **Look out for a welcome email** from the Michelson Found Animals Registry - you'll use it to log in to your account and confirm that the info sent to us was entered correctly (typos are common!).
- **Keep your registration up-to-date** so that we can reach you via calls, texts, and emails if your pet is ever lost and found.
- Visit found.org/resources for instructions on updating your info, adding pets, and much more (it's *always* free!).
- Keep your pet's **microchip card** in your wallet or with their other medical/adoption paperwork in a safe place.

If you don't get a welcome email from us within a week, first check your spam folder, and then visit www.found.org and click "Contact Us" for help.

Best,

The Michelson Found Animals Registry Team

COMMON ILLNESSES IN DOGS

Distemper:

Distemper is a very contagious virus that can be transmitted from dog to dog by toys, bowls, bedding, our clothing/shoes or even our hands. The disease begins with runny eyes and nasal discharge, fever, poor appetite, coughing and development of pneumonia.

The virus will then cause vomiting, diarrhea, a hardening of the nose and foot pads, eventually progressing to seizures or other neurological symptoms and death. Distemper is difficult to treat, therefore the best defense is regular and proper vaccinations through a veterinarian.

Parvovirus

Parvovirus is a severe contagious intestinal disease that causes intense vomiting, bloody diarrhea, and fever. The onset can be sudden and requires veterinary care immediately. Proper vaccinations are the only protection from this virus which is fatal most of the time. Puppies and elderly dogs that are not current on their vaccines are the most likely to become infected.

In their incubation stage, viruses are not detectable. Therefore, an adopted animal may look healthy on the day of adoption and begin to show symptoms of his illness a few days later – at your home.

Kennel Cough

Kennel cough is a term used to cover the large number of viruses that cause upper respiratory issues like coughing, sneezing, and eye discharge. The symptoms in any particular dog may be caused by one or more of these viruses, all of which are airborne and very contagious. Since these are viruses, antibiotics will not help the patient get better faster but in some cases they are needed to treat secondary infections. If you suspect kennel cough your regular veterinarian will be able to help you. Vaccines are available for some of the viruses, but not all.

7-Day Food Swap



75% OLD FOOD
25% NEW FOOD



60% OLD FOOD
40% NEW FOOD



70% OLD FOOD
30% NEW FOOD



50% OLD FOOD
50% NEW FOOD



40% OLD FOOD
60% NEW FOOD



25% OLD FOOD
75% NEW FOOD



100% NEW FOOD

Dog Obedience Courses

A well-mannered, socialized dog is a joy to live with. Teaching helps you and your dog communicate, ensuring that he/she becomes a well-behaved family member. Our classes address not only basic cues but also socialization, house training, chewing, barking, play biting and other behavior concerns.

Our teaching method is based on kindness and respect. We use positive reinforcement such as praise, toys, playtime or treats to motivate, reward and correct behaviors.

Humane Society of West Michigan offers a wide variety of canine courses for you and your dog's needs. To learn about each of these unique opportunities read the descriptions below.

Puppy Kindergarten

Designed for puppies 16 weeks of age and under. Open enrollment, class is 5 consecutive weeks.

Get your new puppy off to a good start with this class! Learn to safely socialize your puppy and enjoy the playtime! Your puppy will not only learn basic skills, but how to be calm and relax. You and your puppy will learn how to play properly to avoid inappropriate mouthing and chewing. Puppy class is a great way to prevent some behavior issues from happening while learning effective ways to teach your puppy!

AKC S.T.A.R.® Puppy

Designed for puppies aged 4 months - 1 year old.

Start your puppy's training with this new program designed by the American Kennel Club. You'll learn how to effectively communicate with your dog and your pup will be able to socialize with other dogs. Upon completion of the course your puppy will be eligible for the AKC S.T.A.R.® Puppy Medal along with various recognition through the American Kennel Club.

Elementary School: Manners Matter

Designed for dogs 5 months and older.

This class is designed for dogs 5 months and older who have never had a previous training class and for those who will benefit by taking the class again. The focus of the class is on good doggy manners and the basic cues of sit, stay, down, come, "leave it," and walking on a loose leash.

High School Jocks: Reactive Dog Class

Designed for reactive adult dogs.

This unique class is designed to help you better understand your dog's reactivity and how to best manage their impulses. The basic manners focus, sit, polite walking, recall, down, stay, and leave it are emphasized. You will learn how to recognize and reward behaviors you want to keep as well as develop skills to change your K9's undesirable behaviors.

Location

Humane Society of West Michigan Training Center

3077 Wilson Dr. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49534

Cost

All Fees are Non-Refundable

\$99 / dog

\$85 / dog if adopted from Humane Society of West Michigan

*Rebate available for Argus Alliance qualifying dogs. Check our website for information on Argus program.

How To Register:

Sign Up here: <http://www.hswestmi.org/obedience-classes.html>

Owners are required to send proof of current vaccinations for Distemper, Bordetella, and Rabies. Please consult your primary veterinarian for assistance.

Please Bring the Following to Class:

- Leash: (4 - 6 foot leather, nylon or cotton leash. Do NOT use chain as it is too hard on your hands during training and is harder to give clear signals to your dog. Please NO retractable leashes.
 - Collar: Nylon collars or martingale collars are both acceptable
 - Desirable dog treats!
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Questions? Email obedienceclass@hswestmi.org

The 3-3-3 Rule:

Thank you for adopting your new family member from Humane Society of West Michigan! We provide this handout to help you and your family know what to expect from your dog once you are home.

The 3-3-3 Rule is a general guideline. Every dog is unique and will adjust to their new life differently. Make sure to give your dog space, patience, and allow them to go at their pace as they settle in.

3 DAYS AFTER ADOPTION:

- Exhausted from coming out of the kennels, may sleep a lot OR may be restless and not able to settle.
- May cling to familiar people and not be comfortable in a space by themselves.
- May inhibit behaviors and appear hesitant or overwhelmed.
- May need encouragement to eat, normal to lack appetite.
- May seek out a hiding place, providing a crate or safe place is recommended.
- Learning schedule and routine.

3 WEEKS AFTER ADOPTION:

- Settling in, starts to get more comfortable, you may see some changes in their behaviors (contact us with questions or concerns).
- Shows more interest in toys/treats/attention.
- Slow introduction to new people/animals/places and monitor reactions.

3 MONTHS AFTER ADOPTION:

- Settled into the routine and schedule.
- Fearful/stressed dogs may take longer to acclimate, contact us with concerns.

Have behavioral questions or concerns about your new dog? Contact Behavior Coordinator, Lyndsey, at lsturgeon@hswestmi.org.