

## **WOW! A NEW DOG!**

Congratulations! You have just added a new member to your family. A new dog is like a lot of things in life – there are ups and downs. The following instructions will maximize the ups and minimize the downs. So...read them!

- 1) Your new dog may or may not be house trained. For your own peace of mind, assume it is not. The excitement of meeting new owners, plus the ride home will probably give your dog an urge to pee, maybe also to poop. Take advantage of that. Get out of the car, take your new dog straight to the exact place in the yard that you want used as a bathroom. Dogs are creatures of routine. Having your new dog do its very first pee in the right spot cuts hours and hours off your house training time. Since you are now off to a good start, continue by reading the enclosed sheet on how to house train.
- 2) This is an exciting day for you and the dog. You don't know each other yet. The dog doesn't know what the house rules are at your place. You might not know for sure what the house rules are! Think about this a bit. Don't allow your new dog to do something today that you aren't going to allow later. I repeat – dogs are creatures of routine. Starting off the way you mean to continue saves you and the dog a lot of time & stress.
- 3) Dogs have four feet to our two. This means they are a lot faster than we are. Even the odds by letting your new dog trail a leash at all times when you're home until it learns manners and your house rules. It's much easier to step on a leash than it is to catch a racing, excited dog. Do take the leash off in the crate and when you're gone. We don't want the poor thing to hang up on something when you're not there to provide a rescue service.
- 4) Dogs like to play tag. The way the game works is for a dog to grab something and run like crazy while the other dog(s) chase along behind making angry dog noises. So, when you race after your dog screaming "drop that shoe", the dog truly doesn't know you're mad. **DON'T DO THIS!** If your dog grabs your shoe and runs, calmly and quietly step on the trailing leash, take the shoe back, give the dog a chew toy and praise it.
- 5) Please don't assume your dog knows how it should behave. Children go to school for twelve or more years to learn how to fit into their world. Your dog also needs to learn what's expected. You may be able to do this on your own or you may need help. There are several good group or private trainers available.
- 6) Do you have kids? If so, kick your common sense into gear. Children under ten years old should never be left alone with a dog. As the child's parent and the dog's owner, you are responsible for teaching the child how to behave appropriately with the new dog and teaching the dog how to behave with the child. Don't assume this will happen with no effort on your part.

- 7) NEVER LEAVE A DOG ALONE WITH A GROUP OF KIDS! Your dog will learn to think of your child as its puppy. Should a visiting child decide to behave in an aggressive fashion toward your child, your dog may react vigorously. According to do protocol, your dog has just done the right thing by protecting its puppy. The other child's parents are not going to see it this way!
- 8) Assume that things are not going to go totally smoothly. High expectations are a source of stress and frustration. Being more realistic will help both you and the new dog adjust to each other. I usually find that the first three days with a new dog in my house are totally awful. The next three or four days are barely tolerable. Then everything starts working out nicely. So if you find yourself wondering why you even got a dog, don't worry. You're normal!
- 9) Dog/human relationships are like human/human relationships. Some combinations work out well, some don't. The reason CARE asked you so many questions before letting you adopt your new dog is to try to make sure that you are going to get along well together. It's hard on dogs to be bounced from one home to another. Therefore, if minor problems crop up, we expect you to deal with them. Please call us; we're always willing to help you. Should a major issue raise its ugly head, or if this specific dog/human relationship is not working out, CARE wants the dog back! You have signed a contract to that effect, but it bears repeating. **DO NOT GIVE THE DOG TO SOMEONE ELSE! DO NOT DUMP IT AT THE SHELTER!**
- 10) We don't want to end this on a negative note. We're sure you and your new dog have a great future together.