

Dog Rescue Newcastle 02-4954-2234 or 4954-7277

<http://www.dogrescuenewcastle.com.au>

Dog Care Basics

This is a summary. Please refer to your "Information for Dog Owners" booklet for more info.

- There will be a settling in period of 2 to 6 weeks where he may have accidents in the house. Please be patient as it will take several weeks for his nervousness to ease and his true personality to emerge.
- Your dog must wear a collar and ID tag at all times. Leave our Dog Rescue Newcastle ID tag on for the first 2 weeks then you can replace it with your own.
- How to housetrain: watch for signals when he is inside, take him outside every couple of hours and once during the night, reward every pee or poo outside). Don't punish accidents! More details in the "Information for Dog Owners" booklet in your Adoption Pack.
- If your dog needs to be left home alone he should be left inside if possible during the first couple of months until he comes to think of your home as his home. Otherwise, he may try to find a way out of the yard. Leave newspapers on the floor toileting if necessary.
- Never hit or kick a dog.
- The only punishment for undesirable behaviour is to ignore it or distract him until the behaviour is good and then reward good behaviour with your attention or a food reward.
- If your dog jumps on you, fold your arms and turn around and ignore the dog until he stops, then turn around and give him your attention. Teach this technique to anyone your dog jumps on, especially children.
- For small dogs especially, it is best to use only a harness for walking, never just a collar (prevents escape, prevents neck damage).
- Some dogs have sensitive skin. Most dogs are especially allergic to Wondering Jew plant. Use Neocort cream for short term relief. Refer to more info in your Adoption Pack or see your vet.
- Establish a relationship with a local vet and get advice about annual vaccination, worming, heartworm, and flea treatment. More details in Info booklet.
- Most vets offer dog training courses which you and your puppy or adult dog can attend.
- We recommend The Complete Idiots Guide to Dog Training, 2nd Ed. available by ringing Dymocks in Sydney.
- If your dog is left outside for any length of time he'll need a kennel which is under shelter and near your house. In the winter, outdoor dogs need a warm coat.
- Dogs should be allowed inside when people are home. It is cruel to leave a dog outside all the time.
- Children should be taught to be gentle, never tease or pull, and to heed dog warning signs such as growling (see pamphlet in your Adoption Pack).
- If your dog has a non-shedding coat (Maltese, Shih-Tzu, poodle, etc) he will need daily combing or brushing and professional grooming (hair cut) every 3 or 4 months, more often in summer.
- Never give onions, chocolate, grapes, raisins, macadamia nuts, avocado or fat trimmed from meat. Never give cooked bones.
- Raw bones are fine but supervise your dog when he has one, and remove it when it gets small enough to swallow. Raw chicken necks are popular.
- **We will always take the dog back, for the lifetime of the dog.** Just contact us. Even if you move out of the Hunter, we can make arrangements for you to surrender him to your local dog rescue organisation. Never surrender him to council, a pound, or the RSPCA.
- Contact us with any questions or concerns. We are always available to help and support you.

Thanks you for adopting a rescue dog and saving a life!