

You've Adopted a Dog!

That's so amazing! Congrats!

Now, in order to make this a successful adoption, here are some things you NEED to know and do!

1. **Understand that this is an overwhelming experience for your new dog.** Do your best to live a low key lifestyle over the next couple of weeks. Keep visitors in your home to a minimum; leave your new friend at home rather than taking him/her to parties, soccer games, dog parks, etc. Focus on building a bond through structure and basic obedience training. Also, make sure your children are aware of proper ways to interact with their new sibling; always supervise these interactions in the beginning.
2. Rest assured, your new dog needs far more physical exercise and mental stimulation than you currently think is appropriate. **A TIRED DOG IS A GOOD DOG.** This means long, fast-paced, structured walks or jogs, lots of playtime, multiple short spurts of obedience training (no more than 5-10 minutes at a time), and brain stimulating toys (think treat dispensing and puzzle toys) EVERY day, rain, snow or shine. Try to skip out on these things? Prepare to be a very frustrated and unhappy dog owner with a very frustrated and unhappy dog.
3. **Training, training, training!** Older dogs, puppies, adolescents...they all need training! Yes, you may have had dogs before, and may think you know what you're doing, but we promise you that checking in with a professional or even watching some positive training videos on YouTube will be SO beneficial. Focus on basic obedience for now: Sit, Down, Stay and Off. Working with your new pal on these skills will help develop a common language and expectations, while also building trust and confidence.
4. You are bringing an opinionated, willful, and energetic being into your home. **THERE IS NO OFF BUTTON** (we've looked!). This is a huge transition for everyone (you, your spouse, kids, other pets, and the new dog), so it's going to take time and patience for things to start going smoothly. The more proactive, responsive and aware you are, the easier this transition period will be.

For training questions, email Save One Soul trainer, Melissa Kroll at:

trainer@sosarl.org



Getting to know your new dog

Congratulations! You've adopted an adult dog from a rescue group or shelter. This is the beginning of a great adventure for you and your new pet. Here are some tips to help you navigate the first days, weeks, and months of your life with Spot or Daisy.

Right now, you're probably excited and hopeful as you bring your dog home. And you should be! No one will love you more than your rescued pet.

Keep in mind, though, that all new pets – especially fully grown pets that have been in a shelter or foster care – need time to adjust. Spot won't automatically know that he now has a forever home with you, so he may be anxious, frightened or over-excited. Daisy won't grasp the rules and habits of your home until she's been there a while and benefited from your direction. Spot and Daisy may have been house-trained in a previous home but may not generalize this behavior to a new place.

All dogs – just like people – need time and coaching to be their best. IT WILL GET BETTER! Be patient, think long-term, and remember the 3s.

THE 3s OF ADOPTING AN ADULT DOG: What to expect

- **THREE DAYS: Your dog should start warming up to you.**

During the first three days, provide a quiet environment. Don't introduce your pet to all your friends and family at once. Keep to a regular schedule for eating, sleeping and walks. Offer a small treat when Spot does something desirable. Ignore bad behavior: yelling or touching may simply reinforce it. Coach any children in your home to be gentle and respectful with the dog; emphasize that Daisy is not a toy but a living being. Ask your dog to 'sit' before giving him his food bowl, opening doors and leashing up.

- **THREE WEEKS: Your dog is beginning to fit in.**

Daisy is learning the daily routine. This is when to reinforce good behaviors on a regular basis. Consistency and repetition are key. Don't worry if you feel frustrated or worried. Problems are bound to come up with new pets that are in situations they've never experienced before. Ask a training expert if you have specific concerns. You may want to sign up for a basic obedience class with a certified dog trainer.

- **THREE MONTHS: The dog is at home in your household.**

By this time, most dogs know they are "home." With a good behavior plan, the right training, patience, and – important! – a sense of humor, you and Spot or Daisy are on your way to a rewarding and loving life together.

Remember: You are never done developing a relationship with your dog!

Sources

Dr. Patricia McConnell : www.patriciamccconnell.com

Petfinder.com: "Tips for the First 30 Days of Dog Adoption"

DogsOutLoud.com: "So you've brought home a new dog ... now what?"



Congratulations on your new addition! Thank you for welcoming a rescue dog into your home and heart. We could not save all these precious souls without fabulous homes like yours! We have compiled the following resources to help support you in your new adventure together. ***Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns; we are here to support you in your new life together!***

Activate Your Dog's FREE Pet Insurance

Dogs are living breathing creatures and can develop medical issues at any time, but many issues often present in the first 30 days of having a new pet due to the stress and newness of the addition. All SOS adoptions are eligible for 30 days of FREE pet insurance. **You must call 855-710-7387 to activate the insurance**; coverage starts at 12am midnight the day after activation.

Register Your Dog's Microchip

Your SOS dog is microchipped. After your vet confirms the microchip number inside your pet, you can register your microchip for free here: www.microchipregistry.foundanimals.org.

Find a Trusted Veterinarian

Establishing a relationship with a trusted veterinarian is a very important part of responsible pet guardianship. **You should plan to visit your veterinarian 3-5 days after bring your new dog home**. Many veterinary clinics offer the first office visit for FREE to recently adopted SOS dogs, including:

Coventry Animal Hospital

Dr. Sam Lester
Dr. Hank Wietsma
2091 Nooseneck Hill Rd
Coventry, RI
(401) 385-3882

Wood River Animal Hospital

Dr. Leah Fischer
Dr. David Serra
28 Kingstown Rd
Wyoming, RI 02898
(401) 539-1199

Wolf Rock Animal Health Center

Dr. Elizabeth Hassinger
Dr. Pamela Lumnah
710 South County Trail
Exeter, RI 02822
(401) 294-0102

Hill & Harbor Veterinary Center

Dr. Keith D. Schoen
500 Main Street
East Greenwich, RI 02818
(401) 398-7807

VCA Animal Hospitals

Search here to find a hospital near you:
www.vcahospitals.com

Banfield Pet Hospitals

Search here to find a hospital near you:
www.banfield.com Remember to take
in your SOSARL coupon

Be sure to take the *First Vet Visit Checklist* with you to your first exam!



Training Services

Basic obedience and training classes can go a long way towards getting off on the right paw with your new buddy - regardless of age, breed, or previous. One-on-one, in-home and group trainings can all be effective options, depending upon the dog and issues needing to be addressed. SOS highly recommends:

Bad Dog Basics: Melissa Kroll, www.baddogbasics.com,
baddogbasics@yahoo.com

John Gagnon's Pet Resort, 227 Upton Road, Colchester, CT 06415, 860-537-3648, www.4dogman.com

Chase K9 Services, RI, www.chasek9services.com

Jones Animal Behavior, 1000 Bald Hill Rd, Warwick, RI 02886, (401) 439-6442,
www.jonesanimalbehavior.com

Lazybones Dog Training, 185 Vernon Drive, Chepachet, RI 02814, 401-651-2576,
www.lazybonesdogs.com

Petco: www.petco.com/petco_Page_PC_dogtrainingclasses.aspx

Petsmart: pets.petsmart.com/services/dog-training/classes

Tools to Help

Caring for and enjoying your time with your new buddy is a lot easier when you have the right tools. Below are items that we recommend you consider gathering PRIOR to welcoming your new dog home. You can find all of these items at your local pet store, or via online sources like Amazon.com, etc. If you shop via Amazon, please shop AmazonSmile select Save One Soul as your charity of choice.

Safety. You will want to “dog-proof” your home. Any items that your new dog should not have access to should be removed from the floor and/or his reach. If you have children, you will want to discuss expectations about their toys.

Crate. Crates are a valuable tool to have for a variety of reasons, and if trained properly, dogs enjoy and willingly use their crates when it is time for a nap or when they need some quiet time. When transporting a dog, especially a new dog, a crate can be a necessity. For puppies that are learning house manners, a crate can be your best

friend. Getting the right size is important.

Harness, Collar and ID tag. Except for the rare exception, small/medium dogs should always be walked with a leash and harness, not just a leash and collar to avoid escape and/or trachea damage. SOS dogs will be transferred with a collar and SOS ID tag. If your dog is an escape artist or known to be a flight risk, a martingale collar is a MUST; when sized properly, it is impossible for the dog to back out of these collars. Please keep the SOS ID tag on your dog at all times until you swap it out for a personalized one with your contact information.



Leash. We like 4' or 6' leashes; NO RETRACTABLE LEASHES. We have many horror stories we could share about dogs escaping and/or getting hurt/hurting themselves/others with retractable leashes. Please do not use these.

Food. Just as with humans, the health, longevity and quality of life of your new furry friend can be intricately linked to the quality of food s/he eats. You wouldn't feel good if you ate eat junk food everyday, so please don't feed it to your dog! SOS strongly encourages our adopters to consider those foods that receive 5 stars on this website:

www.dogfoodadvisor.com

Misc. Water and food bowls, poop bags.

Cleaning supplies. Even perfectly house trained dogs are likely to have accidents when transitioned to a new home and schedule. Please EXPECT ACCIDENTS in the first few days and reduce the stress on yourself by being prepared. For rug/furniture/hard surface cleaners, we like Nature's Miracle, Rug Doctor Green Pet Formula, and Bubba's Pet Stain & Odor Terminator, but there are many options out there. Be sure it is an enzymatic cleaner, or the smell might not be completely removed and your dog might be drawn back to the same place to go again. For tips on

housetraining, go here:www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/housetraining_puppies.html.

Treats. Stock up on treats before your dog comes home. Get high value treats to help with house training and basic obedience training. Use regular treats to help with bonding and reinforce learned behavior. Please do not feed your dog anything that is not made in the US or Canada.

Toys. Toys can be essential to keeping your dog stimulated and content. Smart/Puzzle toys are helpful to keep your new buddy occupied while you are away. Regular toys - stuffed toys, squeakers, balls - help to keep your dog stimulated and offer play/bonding opportunities with you.

Bedding. Be prepared to make your dog feel at home. Who wouldn't appreciate his own doggie bed/blanket?

Exercise Pen or "xpen". While this is not essential, it can be a lifesaver for families who are adding a puppy or smaller dog who is not yet housetrained. Xpens offer endless assistance by providing a way to separate sections of your home, a room, or create a portable fence you can travel with.

Other Services & Support

Please do not hesitate to contact SOS at info@sosarl.org for advice, or information on other services such as boarding, doggie daycare, behavioral assessments & training, and grooming. Once again, thank you for welcoming a rescue dog into your home and heart!

The logo for PetFirst, featuring the word "petfirst" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. Above the letter "i" in "pet" is a small, stylized paw print icon.

Activate the 30-Days
of Pet Insurance
included with your adoption

A photograph of a man with a shaved head, smiling and holding a small, fluffy dog with black, white, and brown fur. The man is wearing a dark blue shirt. The dog is looking towards the camera.

CALL 855-710-7387

Your adoption from **Save One Soul Animal Rescue League** includes 30-days of pet insurance from PetFirst. You must call 855-710-7387 in order to activate the insurance, so don't wait.

Your 30-day pet insurance covers your pets for accidents and illnesses, and reimburses 100% of vet bills incurred during this time up to \$500 per incident after a \$50 deductible. It is effective at midnight EST following activation and is not retroactive to the date of your adoption, so call as soon as possible to ensure your pet is protected.

PetFirst allows you to extend or upgrade this coverage with affordable monthly payments.

Call 855-710-7387 to activate your coverage or discuss plan options.

Sincerely,

Save One Soul Animal Rescue League

www.sosarl.org

The logo for Save One Soul Animal Rescue League. It features the words "Save One Soul" in a large, bold, black font. The word "One" is partially obscured by a red and white circular graphic that resembles a life preserver or a dog's head. Below "Save One Soul" are the words "ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE" in a smaller, red, all-caps font.



30-Days of Pet Insurance

Included with your adoption

WORRY LESS. LOVE MORE.



Let us help you provide the best care for your new family member!

30-Day Pet Insurance Coverage	
Eligible Pets:	Dogs and cats of all ages
Coverage:	Accidents & illnesses
Limits:	\$500 per-incident \$1,000 aggregate limit
Deductible:	\$50 per-incident
Reimbursement:	100%
Effective:	Midnight EST following activation
Activation:	Must call 855-710-7387 to activate
Cost:	Included with adoption * Upgraded/extended coverage available for an additional fee

Why you need pet insurance:

- You can use it at any veterinarian, emergency clinic or specialist nationwide
- The average vet bill for a cat is more than \$500, and more than \$700 for a dog
- Every 6 seconds a pet parent is faced with a vet bill of more than \$1,000
- A pet receives emergency medical treatment every 2.5 seconds in U.S.
- 1-in-3 pets need emergency veterinary treatment every year
- Pet insurance doesn't cover pre-existing conditions, so you need coverage before something happens

How PetFirst pet insurance works:



Take your pet to the vet



Pay the vet bill



Send claim form and receipt to PetFirst



Receive reimbursement in two weeks

Call to activate today!

855-710-PETS (7387)

Monday-Friday, 8am-9pm EST • Saturday, 11am-5pm EST





■ A pet is lost every seven seconds in the United States. Without ID, many lost pets never make it home.

What is the Found Animals Registry?

The Found Animals Registry was built for one reason: all lost pets deserve to find their way home. We are dedicated to finding the simplest, most straightforward solution to make that happen.

We offer an easy and accessible service to ensure that your dog or cat gets home safely. We believe two of the most important things you can do for your pet are to register his or her microchip and ensure your contact information is always up-to-date.

Registered microchips lead to fewer pets in shelters and more pets at home where they belong.

By accepting all brands of microchips and offering free registration, we remove the barriers that prevent pet owners from registering their pets' microchips, and help you protect your pet for life.

How the Found Animals Registry works

From microchipping and registration to reunification

1

Microchip pet



Microchipping provides your pet permanent ID

2

Register & update



Registering your contact info ensures your pet finds you

3

Lost pet is found & scanned



Lost pet can be scanned at any animal facility

4

Alerts broadcast



Automated alerts sent to your phone, text & email

5

Pet is reunited



Reunite with your pet and bring them home

Talk with your animal care provider or visit www.found.org for more information.

www.found.org



■ From microchipping and registration to reunification, we bring lost pets **home.**

Every lost pet deserves to be found.

www.found.org



Why should I microchip my pet?

Approximately one in three pets is lost in its lifetime. Without identification, many lost pets never make it home. A registered microchip greatly increases the likelihood that your pet will be returned to you. Shelters report that microchipped dogs are 2.4 times more likely to be reunited with their families and microchipped cats are reunited 21.4 times more often!

A microchip:

- Provides permanent identification
- Is quick and painless to implant
- Holds a unique ID number that links to your contact information
- Helps your pet get home safely

Your pet should always wear a collar with license and identification tags. However, when collars are damaged or lost, the microchip is your pet's only permanent identification.

Where can I get my pet microchipped?

Many shelters, clinics, veterinarians, and humane organizations offer microchipping; some even provide low-cost clinics and walk-in services. Call facilities in your area to determine which services are offered.

How can I find out if my pet is already microchipped?

Your veterinarian, clinic or local shelter can quickly scan your pet to determine if there is a microchip. If so, write down the number and register your contact information immediately at www.found.org.



How does a microchip work?

A microchip is a small device — about the size of a grain of rice — implanted beneath your pet's skin. It contains a unique identification number that links to your contact information in a registry. The microchip itself does not store your contact information.

A microchip is not a GPS or tracking device. It is only when your lost pet is found, scanned, and searched in a registry that someone will be able to contact you, so it is critical to keep your contact information current in a microchip registry. You can register any microchip and update your information for free at www.found.org.

Why should I register my microchip?

Lost pets are reunited when microchips are registered and contact information is kept up to date. Without registration, the microchip number cannot identify a pet's owner. **Registration is how you connect your contact information with your pet's microchip, ensuring that your family can be contacted if your lost pet is found.**

- You can register *any* microchip and update your information for free in the Found Animals Registry, at www.found.org.

What are Found Pet Alerts?

A Found Pet Alert allows animal care professionals to instantly alert pet owners that a lost pet has been found. Within minutes of activating a Found Pet Alert, the Found Animals Registry will automatically notify the pet owner and any emergency contacts via phone, text, and email with information on where to pick up the pet. The Found Pet Alerts will continue for up to four days or until the alert is turned off by either the pet owner or the organization that found the lost pet.

Why is the Found Animals Registry different?

As a nonprofit organization, the Found Animals Registry believes that all lost pets deserve to be reunited with their families. We are dedicated to finding the simplest, most straightforward solution to make that happen.

The Found Animals Registry:

- Is 100% FREE for all U.S. pets
- Accepts all microchip brands
- Provides lifetime protection and updates
- Automatically notifies you and your emergency contacts if your pet is found

First Vet Visit Checklist

To help ensure a smooth medical care transition for your new dog, please review this checklist and share it with your vet at your first office visit. Prior to adoption, all Save One Soul Animal Rescue League dogs are up to date on age-appropriate core vaccinations, microchipped, spayed/neutered, dewormed, fecal and giardia tested, heartworm negative (or recently treated and microfilaria negative) and on flea/tick/heartworm preventative. Paperwork documenting all of this vetting is transferred at the time of adoption.

Vaccinations

- DAPPv booster** SOS boosters all adults over 6 months and boosters puppies at 2-3 week intervals until the age of 18 weeks.
- Rabies** Required for dogs older than 12 weeks (varies by state).
- Bordatella** SOS recommends that this vaccine is boosted every 12 months for all dogs, or every 6 months if the dog will be around a lot of other dogs (eg, dog park, boarding, daycare).
- Lyme** SOS recommends this vaccination depending upon the adopter's lifestyle (eg, living by woods, hiking, living in New England).
- Leptospirosis** SOS recommends this vaccination depending upon the adopter's lifestyle (eg, living by woods, hiking, wildlife nearby).
- Canine Influenza** Required by some dog daycare/boarding facilities.

Microchip. Please scan to confirm that the number inside the dog is the same as on the dog's paperwork. Microchip Number: _____

Flea/Tick Prevention & Demodectic Mange. SOS recommends year-round flea/tick prevention. SOS uses and has had good success with NexGard and Bravecto. SOS strongly recommends using NexGard or Bravecto for any dogs that have been treated for demodex in the last 3 months and until at least 18 months of age to prevent flare ups; continued use of these specific products may be warranted for some dogs.

Heartworm Prevention & Testing. As part of the SOS adoption contract, SOS adopters commit to keeping their dog on [year-round heartworm preventative](#). SOS regularly uses and recommends Interceptor Plus, Interceptor, and Sentinel (Milbemycin products). Due to the possibility of infection with delayed positive test results, SOS STRONGLY recommends that every SOS dog be tested 6 months after the date of adoption, and every 12 months thereafter. This is to catch the disease early, and SOS may offer financial assistance to adopters whose SOS dog converts to heartworm positive within six months after adoption. SOS exclusively supports the American Heartworm Association preventative, testing and treatment protocols. Read more at heartwormsociety.org.

Fecal for Ova & Parasites. SOS recommends every adopter perform a fecal flotation for ova and parasites (including giardia) shortly after adoption; deworming may be necessary. While all SOS dogs are dewormed and tested, this is basic care that is to be expected of a newly adopted animal.

Other Concerns. Any special medical conditions or treatments are documented in the dog's vetting paperwork. Please discuss recommendations for conditions such as: demodex, current medications, suture removal, ehrlichia, etc.

Please do not hesitate to contact SOS at info@sosarl.org to provide feedback on the health of our dogs. Thank you in advance for giving our dogs great care!

