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Monmouth County  
SPCA



Homeward Bound  
Adoption Kit

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[www.monmouthcountyspca.org](http://www.monmouthcountyspca.org)

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Dog photo on cover courtesy of Matt Denton

*Each year, the MCSPCA Homeward Bound Adoption Center places nearly 3,000 needy pets in new homes.*



## About the Monmouth County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

The Monmouth County SPCA is a non-profit organization founded in 1945 to care for the community's homeless animals. The organization receives little or no federal, state or local funding, but instead relies on private donations and modest fees to fund its many programs.

We are not affiliated with, and receive no funding from, any other animal welfare organization, including the Humane Society of the United States, the ASPCA, the New Jersey SPCA or the Associated Humane Societies, Inc.

The MCSPCA is the only Open Admission animal shelter in the county that does not euthanize adoptable animals. Instead, at the MCSPCA, every adoptable animal is given all the time necessary to find the right home.

### Our Mission

The mission of the Monmouth County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is to protect and advocate for all animals. We are dedicated to enforcing animal cruelty laws; providing a safe haven for homeless, abused and abandoned pets while they await adoption; reducing pet over-population through spay/neutering; and cultivating the humane treatment of animals through education and service as a valuable community resource.

## MCSPCA Resources

[Vogel Spay/Neuter Clinic](#)—The MCSPCA offers low-cost pet spay/neuter services to the public. Call 732-542-3125 for an appointment. Walk-in, no – appointment vaccination clinics are conducted every Friday.

[Cruelty Investigations](#)—The MCSPCA Humane Law Enforcement Division investigates reports of animal cruelty throughout Monmouth County and prosecutes abusers when warranted. Our organization also advocates for legislation that protects animals and for stiff penalties for abusers.

To report a case of suspected animal abuse, call 732-542-0040. After hours please call 732-312-7153. Callers may request anonymity.

[Lost & Found](#)—MCSPCA staff works to reunite lost pets with their owners. If we are unable to locate an owner after 7 days, the animal is available for adoption. Report lost or found pets to the MCSPCA at 732-542-0040.

[Humane Education Program](#)—To promote responsible pet ownership, MCSPCA educators visit dozens of schools and offer tours of our facility to student youth groups.

[Maureen O'Brien Cats & Dogs Thrift Store](#)—Proceeds from sales at our on-site secondhand store directly support the MCSPCA animals. Thanks to our generous donors, we offer many beautiful clothing and household items. Donations are accepted by appointment. Call 732-542-5342 to schedule.

[Woof 'n Whiskers Boutique](#)—Proceeds from our pet boutique, located in the Homeward Bound Adoption Center, go directly to support the MCSPCA animals.

[Volunteers](#)— Our dedicated volunteers help walk dogs, clean our Adoption Center, provide administrative support and participate in foster care, pet-assisted therapy, humane education, fundraising and more. If you can lend a “paw” fill out an application online at [www.monmouthcountyspca.org](http://www.monmouthcountyspca.org)

[Dog Obedience Training](#)— Obedience training turns feisty Fido into a well-behaved companion. Individual and group puppy and adult sessions are available. Call the MCSPCA to enroll.

[Pet-Assisted Therapy](#)— MCSPCA volunteers and their pets pay monthly visits to more than 30 elder care facilities.

[Pet Loss Support Service](#)— The MCSPCA Pet Loss Support Service, staffed with a board-certified counselor, helps those struggling through the death of a pet or coping with the impending death of an aging or ill pet. Call the MCSPCA to register.

## Online Resources

[Petfinder.com](#)— PetFinder is an online, searchable database of animals who need homes.

[DogFriendly.com](#)— DogFriendly is the leading provider of nationwide city guides and travel guides for dog owners.

[PetCharts.com](#)— PetCharts is the place to discover new and popular pet stories, videos and photos, then vote for your favorite.

[Petcentric.com](#)— Petcentric is a fun online pet community.

[Moderncat.net](#)— ModernCat is a design - oriented resource of products and information for living with cats in a modern home.

[PetPoisonHelpline.com](#)— PetPoisonHelpLine is a 24—hour service available throughout the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean for pet owners and veterinary professionals who require assistance with treating a potentially poisoned pet. There is a per incident fee charged.

# Welcome Home

## Congratulations on Adopting Your New Family Member!

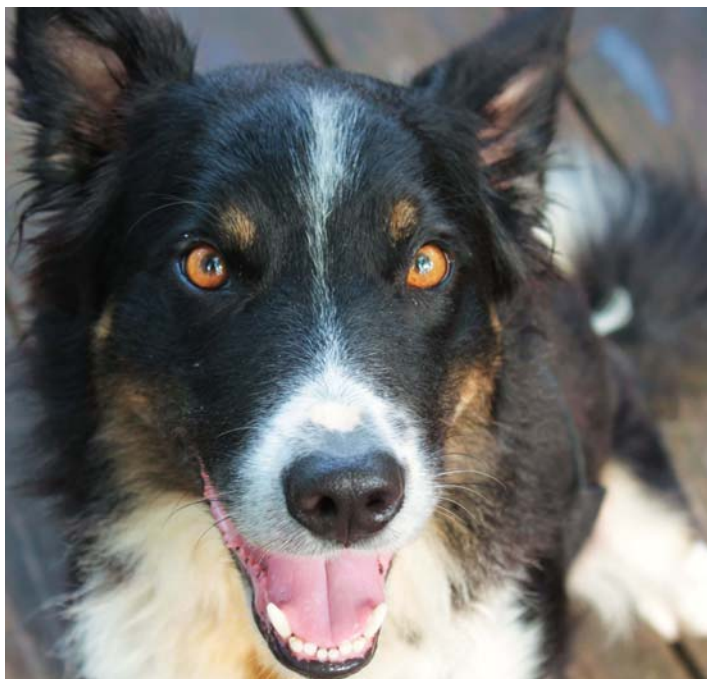
Adopting an animal is an exciting event for both you and your new companion. Perhaps it was love at first sight or maybe a search of many months that finally produced that perfect match.

So today is the first day of your new relationship. Whether it's a kitten or a senior dog, taking the time right now to help your pet make a smooth transition to his or her new environment will increase the chance that yours will be a lasting relationship.

This Adoption Kit is a guide created to help you with tips about pet care, introducing your new family member to your home and resource listings.

The commitment of the Monmouth County SPCA to the animals at our Homeward Bound Adoption Center does not stop when they find their forever family. We are here to help support both you and your new companion. From the Vogel Spay/Neuter Clinic to effective training classes, our staff is here to help you. Feel free to call our adoption counselors with questions, concerns or just to update them on your progress at 732-440-1525.

As a member of the MCSPCA Alumni, your animal is always a member of our family. It is a particular joy for the staff of the MCSPCA to see our former residents at the yearly dog walk and especially when they stop by our adoption center with their family because



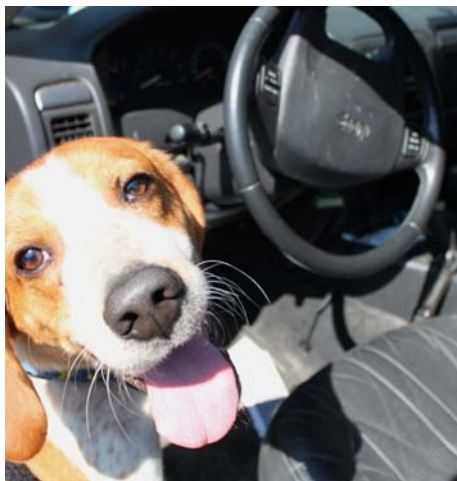
*"Happiness is a warm puppy."*

Charles M. Schulz

## Canine

## Companions

### Bringing A Dog Into Your Family.



Welcoming your new dog into your family is an exciting time for you and your dog, however, your dog is also feeling the stress of being in a new situation and a new environment. A period of adjustment is only normal for all parties involved to relax and get used to new routines. Remember while at the adoption center, the animals are up early to greet our staff of dedicated volunteer dog walkers and retire for the day in the early evening when the adoption center staff heads home for the night. The hustle and bustle of a home doesn't end at 5pm, but often is just beginning as parties return from work or school. While you might be eager to introduce your new addition to extended family and friends it is best to avoid company for the critical first couple of days.

**Supplies To Get You Started** Before you head home, be sure to stop by our Woof 'n Whiskers Boutique for bowls, bedding, leash, collar, crates, carriers, toys, treats and other accessories. All of your purchases benefit the animals still waiting to find their forever homes at the MCSPCA. Be sure to look for your coupon to Woof 'n Whiskers Boutique in this package for an instant savings.

**The Journey Home** The first car ride home can be daunting for your new dog. The safest place for him/her to ride is in a crate. If you don't have a crate or can't put a crate in your vehicle, the next best place is the back seat. Leaving the leash on your dog will aid you in catching him/her should the need arise. Go directly home, but if you have to stop, be sure to never leave your dog unattended in the car.

## Do's and Don'ts of Dog/Dog Introductions

**Animal Introductions:** Never allow your newly-adopted animal to have unsupervised physical contact with your resident dogs or cats until you're absolutely sure they are all getting along fine. Crate the adopted dog/puppy when you can't supervise. Always feed animals separately, although they can share a water bowl.

**Dog/Dog Introductions:** Adding a new canine companion to a home with a dog can be great fun and offer extra companionship for both your dog and your family. The dogs need time to build a good relationship. The following tips are suggestions for safety and will help the relationship get off to a great start.

Introduce the dogs outside your home in a neutral area. Take a short walk in the neighborhood, or at a park nearby. Pick up all toys, chews, bones, food bowls and the resident dog's favorite items. When dogs are creating a relationship, these items (resources) may cause rivalry. They can be introduced after a couple of weeks.

It is very important to avoid quarrels during these early stages of the "sibling" relationship. Also, you must *double* your supply of water dishes, food dishes, dog beds and dog toys.

**Dog/Cat Introductions:** When introducing the dog to a cat make sure the dog is on leash, allow the cat to choose to stay or leave, do not hold the cat in your arms.

The primary goal for a dog and cat relationship is to teach your dog not to chase the cat(s). Unfortunately, there are some dogs whose chase instincts are so strong that it is difficult to train them away from cat chasing. Close supervision to start with the dog on a leash is required until you know for sure that the cat(s) is not in danger.

If the cat hides, don't worry. Keep the dog in the area but make sure the cat has a private place not accessible to the dog where she can feel safe. Make sure the dog does not have access to the cat's food or litter box. You can use a baby gate to block the dog's access. As the dog and cat become more comfortable around each other, they will sort out their relationship. If any interaction seems inappropriate, separate the animals and call 732-440-1525 to speak to one of the adoption counselors.

**Dog/Kid Introductions:** Always limit and supervise play sessions between your child and new dog/puppy. Teach them how to be kind and gentle. **Never leave your child and dog/puppy unattended. Never let a child disturb a sleeping dog.**

### Medical

**Post-Adoption Veterinary Visit:** You should take your new dog to the vet within two weeks of adoption. All adopters will receive a Medical Health Report for their new dog/puppy. This report is a complete list of the animal's medical history, which should be taken to your veterinarian on your first visit to avoid over-vaccination.

**Do** give your new dog his/her own confinement area

**Do** keep all your dog play and socializing positive and brief. This will help avoid over-stimulation or quarrels which may erupt with overly rough or extended play.

**Do** feed dogs in separate areas, completely closed off from one another

**Do** spend time with each dog individually

**Do** keep dogs separate when you cannot supervise interactions

**Do** supervise dogs when around family members, toys or resting areas

**Do** use a "Happy Praising Voice" whenever the dogs are having positive interactions.

**Do** use a "Strong Voice" to interrupt any growling or bully type behavior. Use a phrase such as "Too Bad" and separate the "bully-dog" to a different area for a few minutes then try again.

**DON'T** give chews, rawhides or bones (even if each dog has his/her own) when dogs are together. Wait several weeks, please! The dogs should enjoy these fun chews but only when they are separated in their own crate or individual confinement area.

**DON'T** use your hands or body to intervene during a dog quarrel. Use your voice, a loud noise or water to stop the fight. If the dogs do not stop, use a chair or other large object to insert in between them, or pull them apart by the rear legs or tail to separate. *Be aware that*, when dogs are fighting, they are highly aroused and it is *never* safe to use your hands to attempt separation.

*Please remember that your newly-adopted dog lived with many animals at the MCSPCA. While we strive to adopt out only healthy animals, the dog you are adopting may show signs of illness once in your home. It is the responsibility of the adopter to register for Free Pet Insurance and take the animal for treatment to his/her own veterinarian at his/her own expense.*



**Spay/Neuter:** All animals are spayed/neutered before adoption except for puppies or kittens who are too young for the procedure. In this case the procedure has already been paid for in your adoption fee so please call our clinic at 732-542-3125 to schedule your appointment, or if you have any problems or questions.

**Vaccination-Basic Immunizations:** Rabies and Distemper vaccinations are given to all MCSPCA animals to protect against disease. Puppies require a series of three distemper vaccinations 3 to 4 weeks apart, with yearly boosters thereafter. The Vogel Spay/Neuter Clinic offers a walk-in, no appointment vaccination clinic every Friday. Call 732-542-3125 for more information.

**Heartworm Testing:** All dogs over 6 months of age receive a heartworm blood test. If the test results are positive, and the disease is detected early, it can be treated. If the test results are negative, a reliable heartworm preventative should be used. Puppies under 6 months of age are not tested because test results would not be accurate. Heartguard can be purchased at the Vogel Spay/Neuter Clinic. Call 732-542-3125 to learn more.

**Flea and Tick Treatment:** The MCSPCA recommends the use of Frontline, Revolution and Advantix flea and tick treatment products. All animals that go outside should be treated once a month, especially from May through October. Revolution, Frontline and Advantix may be purchased at the Vogel Spay/Neuter Clinic. Call 732-542-3125 for more information.

**Fecal Examinations:** All dogs/puppies are wormed before they are adopted, but sometimes an additional worming is needed. Your vet should do a fecal examination to diagnose and treat internal parasites such as roundworm, hookworm, whipworm and tapeworm.

**Microchipping/ID Tags:** A microchip is a rice-sized device encoded with a unique and unalterable ID# which is implanted in the shoulder blade area of all the animals adopted from the MCSPCA. You will receive a certificate of registration for the microchip through the mail within a few months. See pamphlet for more details. **Please keep your animal's collar with SPCA ID tag, and any other tag you may have, on at all times.** Check with your town for animal licensing requirements.

## Grooming

**Brushing and combing:** Your dog/puppy's coat should be shiny and clean and not matted. Regular grooming sessions of 5-15 minutes a day do more than just keep your animal happy and healthy. These sessions strengthen the bond and allow you to check your dog's appearance to see that he/she stays in peak condition. Some breeds require additional or professional grooming.

**Bathing:** Give a bath only when needed; bathing too frequently can dry out skin and hair coat. We don't recommend giving your new pet a bath right away. Give him/her a few days to settle in.

**Dental Care: Beware of Bad Breath!** It's important to care for your dog's/puppy's teeth. The build-up of tartar and plaque may lead to periodontal issues. These issues can also cause or worsen other conditions of the heart, kidney and respiratory system.

**Eyes and Ears:** Eyes should be bright and clear, and free of discharge. Ears should be clean and free of discharge and odor. Untreated ear problems are painful and can cause hearing loss.



**Nail Care:** Daily walking on concrete sidewalks helps to keep nails trim. Your vet or groomer can show you how to clip long nails so that you don't accidentally cut the quick.

## Feeding

**Water:** Your dog should always have fresh water available in a clean bowl. Never give a dog or puppy milk.

**What to Feed:** The MCSPCA feeds a combination of Hill's Science Diet adult or puppy dry food and Pedigree canned food. Hill's is a premium-grade food and can be purchased in most major pet food stores. If you wish to change your dog's diet, it should be done gradually to avoid bowel upset. As a rule, you should stick to the same diet. Table scraps can cause weight gain.

**When to Feed:** Most MCSPCA adult dogs eat once a day, depending on the age, weight, and activity level of the dog. When deciding how often to feed your dog, consider your schedule as well as your dog's "potty" schedule. Puppies are fed 2-3 meals per day up to six months of age.

## Chewing and Mouthing

### **Why does my dog chew on things?**

Chewing is a normal canine behavior. So, instead of punishing your dog for chewing, try to redirect his attention to more appropriate objects. If your dog starts chewing on an inappropriate item, simply offer him an appropriate one. When he begins to chew on it, give him lavish praise. Don't allow your dog to chew on any of your possessions (even the ones that you don't mind him chewing up), since he can't distinguish between an old worn-out shoe and a brand-new one.

### **What should my dog chew on?**

Pet supply stores have a wide variety of durable rubber or nylon toys that satisfy a dog's urge to chew. Dog "puzzles" that you can stuff treats into (like Kongs and Buster Cubes) can keep him/her occupied for a long time. You can also buy sterilized, hollow bones that you can fill with peanut butter, cheese or wet dog food mixed with dry; if your dog empties the bone or toy too quickly, experiment with different fillers. You can try freezing wet dog food or wedging a piece of hard cheese tightly inside the toy or bone. To prevent your dog from becoming bored, give her a variety of items to chew that offer different tastes, odors, textures and challenges. Occasionally add new items to your dog's choices. Besides the above suggestions, many dogs love frozen carrots, cow hooves and Nylabones. If your dog is very enthusiastic about chewing, make sure chew toys are available to him at all times. For example, put chew toys outside if you leave your dog in the yard for more than a few minutes. Remember, too, that dogs will chew out of boredom, so make sure your dog gets plenty of exercise and interaction with you on a daily basis.

### **What is mouthing?**

If you watch dogs play together, they often mouth each other in a sort of mock bite. Many dogs play with people in the same way – by mouthing our hands or other body parts. Though mouthing is not biting, it can become too aggressive to be acceptable.

### **How do I discourage mouthing?**

To discourage mouthing, always use a toy to play with your dog. If you inadvertently become the toy say, "Ouch!" in a loud, surprised tone and remove your hand from the dog's mouth. Wait just one second, and then offer your hand for licking. If the dog mouths your hand again, repeat the steps above until the mouthing stops. When she does not mouth your hand, praise her and introduce a new toy. You can throw the toy and say "get the toy" to start a game of fetch. For her to get the idea that mouthing is not acceptable, your dog will need lots of practice with the above technique. As with other training techniques, consistency is key, so try to make sure that anyone who plays with your dog knows how to discourage mouthing.

## Behavior

**Obedience Training:** Many animals are given away to shelters or are abandoned due to behavior problems. The obedience training offered by the MCSPCA can resolve behavior problems and turn your dog into a well-behaved member of your family. The keys to successful training are Patience and Positive Reinforcement. Never use physical punishment of any kind. See our Dog/Puppy Obedience Training pamphlet at the back of this kit for more details.

**Crate training/confinement:** The MCSPCA recommends crate training to discourage housebreaking problems and chewing. Gates can also be used, but additional training to not jump the gate may be necessary. **Never use a crate to punish an animal.** Your dog should be supervised (within your view) or managed (in a crate or other dog proofed area) at all times until fully trained. Until then, set your dog up to succeed by making it impossible to make the wrong choices as far as what to chew and where to eliminate when you are not present.

Crates are a wonderful training tool when used properly. It is important that the crate not be overused and the dog should be taught to have a positive association to the crate. Beyond management while training proper habits, most dogs will need to be crated at some point in their lives, such as when boarding or when admitted for veterinary procedures. For this reason

we recommend that all dogs are trained to love their crates. Also, crates come in handy for many situations – feeding, sleeping (dogs like dens, when introduced properly), when company comes over, after a bath or after a wet dirty play time or because you have a dog who isn't fully trained when you need a break from supervising. We recommend sturdy metal folding crates that are see-through, like the crates we sell at the Woof 'n Whiskers Boutique.

## Housetraining

The #1 rule is confinement with a good feeding and elimination schedule. Dogs/puppies avoid going to the bathroom near their eating/sleeping spots. Give your dog/puppy frequent opportunities to go outside and praise your dog/puppy for every puddle or pile produced outside! Puppies younger than six months old may not be able to control their bowels.

**Establish a Routine:** Your dog will do best if he is taken outside on a consistent and frequent schedule. He/she should have the opportunity to eliminate after waking up from a nap, after playing and eating.

Choose a location not too far from the door to be the bathroom spot. Always take your dog/puppy, on a leash, directly to the bathroom spot. Taking him for a walk or playing with him directly after he has eliminated will help him to associate good things with elimination. If you clean up an accident in the house, take the soiled rags or paper towels and leave them in the bathroom spot. The smell will help your dog/puppy recognize the area as the place he is supposed to eliminate. While your dog/puppy is eliminating, use a word or phrase, like "go potty," that you can eventually use before he eliminates to remind him of what he's supposed to be doing.

Praise your dog/puppy lavishly every time he eliminates outdoors. You can even give him a treat. You must praise him or treat him immediately after he's finished eliminating, not after he comes back inside the house. This step is vital because rewarding your dog/puppy for eliminating outdoors is the only way he'll know that this is an appropriate behavior.

If possible, put your dog/puppy on a regular feeding schedule. Feeding your dog/puppy at the same times each day will make it more likely that he'll eliminate at consistent times as well. This makes housetraining easier for both of you.

### **Supervise, Supervise, And Supervise:**

Don't give your dog/puppy an opportunity to soil in the house. He should be watched at all times when he is indoors. You can tether him to you with a leash or use baby gates to keep him in your view. Watch for signs that he needs to eliminate, like sniffing around or circling. When you see these signs, immediately take him outside, on a leash to his bathroom spot. If he eliminates, praise him lavishly and reward him with a treat.

## Tips for Teaching Your Dog to Love the Crate

1. Choose a central location where your dog will see the family often – such as the kitchen or family room. Avoid low traffic areas such as garages or basements.
2. Set up the crate and leave the door open – do not force your dog into the crate or immediately lock the dog in the crate. Let the dog go in and out of the crate on their terms at first. This builds trust.
3. Use some twine to tie your dog's favorite chew toy to the back of the crate so he has to enjoy it in the crate (with the door open). We've found that Flossie's and Bully Sticks work great for this.
4. Toss in some treats when your dog isn't looking. Don't point them out – let your dog discover the crate and the treasures inside on his own.
5. Start daily feedings in the crate. Walk to the crate with the food bowl; ask your dog to go in, once in the crate place the food in the crate. After he finishes, open the door.
6. At least once a day ask your dog to go in the crate and give a treat for going in and allow the dog to exit the crate immediately after. A treat could be a bone, a toy, a special cookie, a stuffed Kong etc... Make going into the crate FUN!
7. Slowly build up the duration of time (starting with 5 minutes or less and gradually working up to longer periods of time) that you keep the dog in the crate, *without ever exceeding 4-6 hours*.
8. Put the crate next to a sofa, rent a video and keep the dog confined next to you while he works on a stuffed Kong or other chewies (bully sticks, sterilized marrow bone, etc...).
9. It is always a good idea to give the dog something to do in the crate. Chew toys and work to eat toys make great crate activities.

# Playful Puppies

## Children and Puppies

**Proper Handling:** When a new puppy comes home, it is very exciting time for everyone. All family members will want their chance to hold the puppy. We strongly suggest that your children understand that they can only hold the puppy while under supervision.

**No Running, Screaming or Chasing in the House:** One suggestion that will help prevent a lot of problems later on is to enforce that the children run as little as possible when in the house. A running target is a big temptation for a puppy, and he will not be able to resist chasing it. Depending on the type of puppy and his temperament, he may try to end the chase game by catching your children and stopping them by using his mouth. Running is something that is done outside. It makes life in the house so much easier to manage!

**The Puppy's Crate Is Not A Fort:** We recommend that you use a crate for your puppy for house training purposes and as a place of confinement when you cannot watch him. If possible, purchase a crate before your puppy comes home and work with your children establishing "the crate is off limits" rule. A crate is a fascinating place for young children. They are always interested in crawling inside and even shutting themselves in. It is important to teach the children that the crate is for the puppy only and that they do not belong in there. Your puppy needs a place where he can feel safe and escape the excitement and commotion of your busy lives.

**Never Open the Door to Let the Puppy Out of the House:** This may sound obvious to us as adults, but young children will see you going through a routine everyday of opening the door to take the puppy out and they may decide at some point to do the same. Your children are watching your every move but may not be capable of understanding when and why you are doing this. They may attempt to mimic this behavior. This can be disastrous, especially if you do not have a fenced yard. Supervision is your key to success. Tell your children that when the puppy comes home they must never open the door to let the puppy outside without your permission. It is important that you teach them to always ask an adult before opening the door.

## Puppy Development

**Socialization: Eight to Twelve Weeks:** At approximately eight weeks, puppies can begin in-home training. You should handle all parts of the puppy, introduce his first collar and lead, encourage him to come using his name, and reward him with praise and treats. You can also start training puppies with positive reinforcement methods: using a clicker, praise and rewards. At this age, puppies start experiencing fear; everyday objects and experiences can alarm them. This is a perfectly normal reaction-it doesn't mean that you will have a fearful dog. You don't want to socialize your puppies with other dogs and cats until the puppies have been vaccinated, since they may pick up diseases (such as parvo, distemper and hepatitis) that can be fatal to puppies. By twelve weeks, puppies usually have received a couple of vaccine combo shots and can safely interact with other vaccinated puppies and dogs.



Ask your veterinarian if she or he knows of any parvo or distemper outbreaks in your area. Puppies can socialize with other species of animals as well – horses, cats, whatever animals you would like your puppy to be comfortable around. But, use caution and make sure that the other animals are friendly.

**Four to Six Months:** During this period, puppies grow rapidly and you may notice daily changes. Even though puppies are very energetic, don't exercise your puppy too much – he *can* overdo it! Among themselves, puppies begin to use ranking in their group structure – that is they start testing where they fit in. Puppies this age may experience a second fear phase that lasts about a month and seems to come from nowhere. Again, this is perfectly normal part of puppy development and is nothing to be alarmed about.



**Adolescence: Six to Twelve Months:** Like most adolescents, puppies are very rambunctious, so continue the process of training and socializing your dog during this phase. Socialization and training are important if you want your puppy to be comfortable and act acceptably in public places such as dog parks and beaches, or anywhere that she will meet new dogs and new people.

**Social Maturity: Between One and Two Years:** By this age, your dog will be socially mature and will know what her ranking is in your family. Ongoing training will ensure a respectful and fun relationship between your dog and all human family members, which makes having an animal in the family a daily pleasure.

### **Go to the Veterinarian Immediately? Or Wait a Day...?**

**Not Eating:** If your puppy misses one or two meals, or is picky at those meals, as long as there are no other symptoms present, this may just be normal adjustment behavior. Smaller puppies can become hypoglycemic though after missing a meal or two, so you should try to get some food (boiled chicken, boiled hamburger meat) into them. If they are still picky with this, you will want to schedule an appointment for the next day.

**Lethargy:** If your puppy is very active, eats well, but sleeps a lot too...this is normal. It's a puppy that is very lethargic with no appetite that is more concerning. These could be signs that puppy has a fever or is incubating a virus. The above recommendations for NOT EATING apply here too.

**Vomiting:** If your puppy vomits once or twice, but still has a decent appetite, you should be able to monitor this for a day or so and schedule a regular appointment. If puppy eats very fast and then vomits, you may want to try smaller meals about 4 times daily until he gets the idea that food is going to be consistent. (If he came from a big litter where he had to eat what he could, this is common). If puppy continues to vomit more than a few times, and has no appetite, this is the time to call your veterinarian and get there that same day.

**Diarrhea:** If your puppy has a good appetite but has soft stool, you can monitor for a day or so and bring a stool sample in when you go the veterinarian. If the puppy is eating very well and no vomiting is present, puppy can probably handle one or two bouts of diarrhea in general. You can mix in some rice to the food to help bind him up until the veterinarian appointment. If appetite is poor and is accompanied by more than one or two bouts of vomiting, then you should call your veterinarian for an appointment today. Many people panic when they see blood in the stool. If puppy is eating and acting fine, but has some soft stool with some blood in it, you can still monitor the stool and take a sample in when you go. It is when the stool has large amounts of blood and has mostly a water consistency that you want to be more cautious. After one or two bouts of this type of diarrhea, dehydration could become a worry, especially with a smaller puppy.

**Nasal discharge or coughing:** If your puppy has clear nasal discharge/dry cough and is eating well, monitor and call for an appointment within a few days. If the discharge has color to it and/or persistent cough and puppy is eating fine and active, you could likely wait until the next day for an appointment. If puppy is showing colored discharge and is not eating well, an

appointment today is needed. If your puppy is already on antibiotics and seems to be eating fine with some colored discharge, you should monitor daily, and if the situation worsens (more lethargic, poor appetite) then an appointment should be scheduled within a day. A general cold is OK...its pneumonia that is the concern with puppies. This can happen very quickly, so monitoring is the key.

## Play Biting in Puppies

### **Is My Puppy Aggressive?**

Almost all normal puppies play bite. They do it to other puppies, to adult dogs who'll let them and to their owners. It's important to distinguish this constant biting from bona fide aggression, where a dog threatens and/or bites when being possessive of toys or food, or when uncomfortable about someone touching them or coming too close. Aggression is less common in young puppies than in adult dogs but is not unheard of. If you think your puppy is showing signs of aggression, get yourself into competent professional hands. Many kinds of aggression can be resolved.

The reason puppies play bite so much (it is their main activity aside from eating, sleeping and eliminating!) has to do with their ancestry as social carnivores. Pack animals such as dogs are equipped to bring down large prey animals and so must have extremely strong jaws. And, in close social situations, there will be arguments and competition over food, resting places and mates. During these day-to-day scuffles it's vitally important that dogs not use their full jaw strength on each other the way they do on their prey! Instead, they use ritualized aggression — threats, body postures and inhibited bites—to make their point.

The ability to bite without maiming force is rehearsed in puppyhood during— you guessed it— play biting! Puppies are programmed to do it so they can learn about their jaw strength. When one puppy bites another too hard with those needle sharp teeth, play grinds temporarily to a halt, which provides a potent consequence to the biting puppy; over time, the bites become consistently gentler in order to keep play going. Without this constant feedback about their jaw pressure, puppies are at higher risk to grow up without acquiring the capacity to inhibit the force for their jaws.

### **What Should I do About Puppy Biting?**

The best policy for owners of young puppies (age 6-18 weeks) is to allow play biting provided it is not too hard. Hard bites should result in time-out penalties— cessation of play (leave the puppy alone or put him in a “penalty box” for a minute) - as a consequence. Only when the puppy has gotten reliable about biting more softly should play biting be phased out altogether, by re-directing the puppy to toys and giving consequences for all bites. This way, the dog has a much better chance of growing up with good bite inhibition. Free-play with other puppies and friendly adult dogs is another good forum for puppies to develop bite inhibition.





## Housetraining

Expect your puppy to have an accident in the house – it’s a normal part of housetraining.

When you catch him in the act of eliminating in the house, do something to interrupt him, like make a startling noise (be careful not to scare him). Immediately take him to his bathroom spot, praise him and give him a treat if he finishes eliminating there.

Don’t punish your puppy for eliminating in the house. If you find a soiled area, it’s too late to administer a correction. Do nothing but clean it up. Rubbing your puppy’s nose in it, taking him to the spot and scolding him (or any other punishment or discipline) will only make him afraid of you or afraid to eliminate in your presence. Animals don’t understand punishment after the fact, even if it’s only seconds later. Punishment will do more harm than good.

Cleaning the soiled area is very important because puppies are

highly motivated to continue soiling in areas that smell like urine or feces.

### **Paper Training:**

A puppy under 6 months of age cannot be expected to control his bladder for more than a few hours at a time. If you have to be away from home for more than four or five hours a day, this may not be the best time for you to get a puppy. If you’re already committed to having a puppy and have to be away from home for long periods of time, you’ll need to train your puppy to eliminate in a specific place indoors.

Be aware, however, that doing so can prolong the process of teaching him to eliminate outdoors. Teaching your puppy to eliminate on newspaper may create a life-long surface preference, meaning that he may, even in adulthood, eliminate on any newspaper he finds lying around the house.

When your puppy must be left alone for long periods of time, confine him to an area with enough room for a sleeping space, a playing space and a separate place to eliminate. In the area designated as the elimination place, you can either use newspapers, a sod box or litter. To make a sod box, place sod in a container, like a child’s small plastic swimming pool. You can also find dog litter products at pet supply stores. If you clean up an accident in the house, take the soiled rags or paper towels, and put them in the designated elimination place. The smell will help your puppy recognize the area as the place where he is supposed to eliminate.

### **Confinement:**

When you’re unable to watch your puppy closely, he should be confined to an area small enough that he won’t want to eliminate there. It should be just big enough for him to comfortably stand, lie down and turn around. This area could be a portion of a bathroom or laundry room, blocked off with boxes or baby gates. Or you may want to crate train your puppy and use the crate to confine him (see the section on crate training). If your puppy has spent several hours in confinement, make sure to take him directly to his bathroom spot before doing anything else.

### Other Types of House Soiling Problems:

If you’ve consistently followed the housetraining procedures and your puppy continues to eliminate in the house, there may be another reason for his behavior.

**Medical Problems:** House soiling can often be caused by physical problems, such as a urinary tract infection or a parasite infection. Check with your veterinarian to rule out any possibility of disease or illness.

**Submissive/Excitement Urination:** Some dogs, especially young ones, temporarily lose control of their bladders when they become excited or feel threatened. This usually occurs during greetings, intense play or when they’re about to be punished.

**Territorial Urine-Marking:** Dogs sometimes deposit urine or feces, usually in small amounts, to scent-mark their territory. Both male and female dogs do this, and it most often occurs when they believe their territory has been invaded.

**Separation Anxiety:** Dogs that become anxious when they’re left alone may house soil as a result. Usually there are other symptoms, such as destructive behavior or vocalization.

**Fears or Phobias:** When animals become frightened, they may lose control of their bladder and/or bowels. If your puppy is afraid of loud noises, such as thunderstorms or fireworks, he may house-soil when he’s exposed to these sounds.

# Feline

## Friends

### Bringing A Cat Into Your Family.

Choosing to bring a cat into your life is an especially wonderful decision as there are so many unwanted cats awaiting homes. For whatever reason, many cats are not spayed or neutered and are allowed to prowl the neighborhood, which can quickly and frequently lead to a severe overpopulation problem in many shelters.

**Supplies To Get You Started** Before you head home be sure to stop by our Woof 'n Whiskers Boutique for bowls, bedding, leash, collar, carriers, litter box, toys and other accessories. All of your purchases benefit the animals still waiting to find their forever homes at the MCSPCA. Be sure to use your coupon in this adoption package to the Woof 'n Whiskers Boutique for an instant savings.



“Nothing makes a house cozier than cats.”

Gladys Taber

## Behavior

**Training:** Some common behavior problems can be stopped before they start with the proper planning. The key is patience. Cats/kittens can be trained with positive reinforcement instead of punishment.

Positive Reinforcement – petting, praise, treats and toys to reward good behavior.

Negative Consequences for bad behavior – distract your cat/kitten to interrupt the bad behavior.

*Never hit or yell at your cat/kitten.*

**Confinement and Introductions:** Your cat will need time to adjust to his/her new home as well as being your family's companion. For the first week or two keep your new cat/kitten confined to one room with a litter box, food, water, toys, a scratch post or pad and a comfortable bed. This will ensure that he/she is eating and using the litter box. **This step is extremely important if there are other animals in the household to avoid fighting and territorial behavior.** At first all animals should only be allowed to smell and hear each other, not see or interact with each other.

**Introductions Cat/Cat:** By following these steps when adding another feline to the family, pet owners may be able to prevent the infighting and territorial behaviors that often lead to relinquishment. Although this mostly refers to cat meeting cat, the basic process of confinement and supervision of the new cat should help to make the transition go just as smoothly with your resident dog (see dog/cat introductions in the canine section).

## When Should I Take My Kitten To The Veterinarian?

**Diarrhea:** One or two bouts of soft stool is not too much cause for alarm. Often times there will be some blood in the stool, which only represents irritation or straining. If your kitten is eating well and active, diarrhea should be looked at as a concern, not an emergency. If the diarrhea persists a few days, then a stool sample and an exam are recommended at your own veterinarian.

**Vomiting:** Kittens vomit...it's a fact. If your kitten vomits occasionally and is still acting fine and wants to eat, then there usually isn't a cause for alarm. If your kitten vomits often (especially if diarrhea is present) and has a poor appetite, a vet visit should be scheduled within a day. Kittens can dehydrate very quickly and may need fluids to sustain him/her.

**Not Eating:** If your kitten is not eating anything for more than a day, it would be wise to schedule a veterinary visit as soon as possible. In the meantime, try to get some food or Nutrical into him/her just to keep sugars up. Dehydration is a concern, but low blood sugar is the first problem you should worry about.

**Sneezing/Coughing:** Upper respiratory issues are common after coming home from a shelter where there are many cats housed closely together. Mild upper respiratory issues can resolve on their own. If the kitten has no discharge, or clear discharge and is sneezing occasionally and still eating, then monitoring the kitten is fine and a veterinary visit can be scheduled within a few days or so. If the kitten has colored (green or yellow) discharge, a veterinary visit should be scheduled the next day as long as the kitten is eating. If the kitten is not eating, along with an upper respiratory problem, go to the veterinarian as soon as possible.

**Lethargy:** Kittens may have an adjustment period when coming to a new home. If your kitten is just a little quiet, but still eating and has none of the above signs, it is likely just adjustment-related. If lethargy is combined with any of the above conditions, especially not eating, schedule a veterinary appointment as soon as possible.

After a week or two, when your new cat seems to be comfortable in his/her room, confine the resident cat in this area and allow the new animal to explore the house under supervision. This allows each cat to become familiar with the other's scent

Feed or offer both cats treats close to the door to this room (one on each side). This helps each to associate "good things" with each other's presence. Use "to die for" treats such as small pieces of tuna, chicken or salmon.

Try slipping one end of a toy underneath the door to encourage the cats to paw at it or each other in a playful way.

Repeat these procedures until there are no aggressive or fearful responses and both cats begin to show some curiosity about the cat that is on the other side of the door.

Next, wedge the door open about an inch with doorstops. This allows the cats to peek at each other, paw if they want to, but not have complete access to each other. Do not progress past this step until the cats can see each other without fearful or aggressive responses. Continue to use toys, food and petting as long as the cats aren't threatening. Touching an agitated cat may result in a bite. If the cats are threatening or fearful when close to either side of the door to the confinement room, offer the tidbits at a greater distance from the door, where both cats can be calm.

Next, wedge the door open a little further, but not so much that the cats can get to one another. Repeat the previous step.

An ideal next step is to give both cats full view of one another behind a screen or glass door or put the new cat in a carrier that has a door that he/she can see through.

When the cats are first together, keep the session brief and continue to offer enjoyable things – food, toys and petting.

Do not move the introduction along too quickly. The cats should be tolerating each other well at each step before progressing to the next. One bout of fighting may set the introduction back for months.

During the initial time together, if any hissing or conflicts occur, try to distract the cats into another activity – dangle a toy, get the resident cat into the kitchen with the sound of food preparations, etc... If these reactions continue, back up a few steps in the introduction process.



Avoid having the cats together in a small space such as a car until they have become comfortable with each other.

Supervise interactions until they are consistently demonstrating friendly behaviors with each other for at least one week.

Punishment is rarely helpful with cat introductions as it is counter-productive in creating the association of “good things” with each other’s presence.

If a fight does occur, try a loud noise such as the “rattle can” or a squirt bottle to break it up before either cat is injured. This

should be used to interrupt the current interaction, not as a recurring form of discipline.

Don’t try to pull the cats apart or use interactive punishment. If interactions consistently result in fearful, threatening or aggressive behavior, either the introduction was too abrupt or this not a problem-prevention situation but instead requires problem resolution. And sometimes, over time, cats just learn to “work it out”.

Remember the 120-day rule. All animals need “adjustment time.” Four months should be enough time to tell if it will work or not.

Keep the resident cat’s routine as much the same as possible by keeping feeding, play and sleep times and locations the same as before the new cat arrived.

**Cat/Child:** Show your children how to properly pick up a cat/kitten and how to play with the new pet. Teach them how to be kind and gentle. Limit and supervise play sessions. Remember that cats/kittens need to “catnap” often. **Never** leave your child unattended with your new pet.

**Litter Box:** Supply at least one box for every cat in your household. The box should be kept in a low-traffic area. Clumping or scoopable litter makes cleaning the litter box easy and controls odor if liquid and solid wastes are removed daily. **Keep the litter box clean at all times!**

**Scratching:** Cats and kittens have the innate need to scent mark and exercise the tendons in their feet. Train your cat/kitten right from the beginning to sharpen his/her claws on a scratching post or cardboard scratch pad. To discourage scratching furniture, temporarily cover with a sheet or use double-sided sticky tape on the targeted location. Place the scratching post directly in front of the covered target. Then move the post gradually toward the area where it will be kept permanently. To encourage your cat/kitten’s interest in the scratching post, rub catnip or dangle a toy from it. Praise your cat/kitten when he/she uses the scratching post.

**Exercise:** Regular exercise helps prevent obesity and its associated health risks. It also helps prevent undesirable behavior. This is particularly important for indoor cats with limited options for physical stimulation. Toys are fun but interactive play is entertaining for you and your cat. Most cats like to chase catnip toys adorned with string or ribbons or explore paper bags, boxes and baskets. Variety is the key. **We don’t recommend letting your cat outside.** There are too many dangers getting lost, hit by a car or contracting diseases.

## Medical

**Health Report:** All adopters will receive a Medical Health Report for their new cat/kitten. This report will list all medical care provided (or to be provided) by your MCSPCA veterinary technicians. This report should be taken to your veterinarian on your first visit to avoid over-vaccination. This report will be given to you and explained in detail upon completion of your adoption.

**Spay/Neuter:** All animals are spayed/neutered before adoption except for kittens under 6 months of age or those who may not be healthy enough for surgery at the time of adoption. In this case spay neuter surgery has already been paid for in your adoption fee so please call the Vogel Spay/Neuter clinic at 732-542-3125 to schedule your appointment or if you have any problems or questions.

**Vaccinations:** Rabies and Distemper vaccinations are given to all

MCSPCA animals to protect against disease. Kittens require a series of three distemper vaccinations 3 to 4 weeks apart with annual boosters thereafter. To learn more about our no appointment vaccination clinic held every Friday call 732-542-3125.

**Feline Immune Deficiency Virus (FIV) and Feline Leukemia (FeLV) Testing:** All cats/kittens are given a blood test to check for both FIV and FELV viruses. Feline Immunodeficiency Virus very closely mimics the effects of HIV in humans. It does not infect humans or pose any public risk. These viruses attack a cat/kitten's immune system, and are acquired through cat-to-cat contact, usually from a bite or bodily fluids. Cats/kittens testing positive for FIV can live for years with no complications. Cats/kittens testing positive for Leukemia might live as little as a few months to a few years depending on the form of Leukemia. This virus is much more contagious and debilitating.

**FIP (Feline Infectious Peritonitis)-FIP** is caused by a coronavirus that has mutated. The virus is passed through saliva and feces. MOST cats in shelters, pet stores, or stray cats are exposed to coronavirus. The majority of cats exposed to corona never show any signs. The only test that can be done is a corona titer, which shows exposure to the virus. Only a very small percentage of these cats will ever develop FIP so a positive titer for corona does NOT mean that the cat will become ill. There is no definitive rule of what cats would mutate into FIP, but cats that are very young or very old, sickly or debilitated, or in poor physical shape are most likely to be ones that could mutate. Just because one cat in a litter gets FIP does not mean another in the litter will. It really depends on the overall health and immune system of the individual cat. FIP is a very sneaky disease that can develop weeks, months or even years after exposure so there truly is no way to tell who will get it and when.

**Flea and tick treatment:** The MCSPCA recommends the use of Frontline and Advantix flea and tick treatment products. All animals that go outside should be treated once a month; especially from May to October. You can call the Vogel Spay/Neuter Clinic 732-542-3125 for more details about purchasing your flea treatments.



**Fecal examinations:** All cats/kittens are wormed before they are adopted, but sometimes an additional worming is needed. Your vet should do a fecal examination to test for the presence of internal parasites such as roundworm, hookworm, whipworm, tapeworm, and coccidia. If any of these parasites are present, they must be treated.

**Microchipping/ID Tags:** A microchip is a rice-sized device encoded with a unique and unalterable ID# which is implanted in the shoulder blade area of all animals adopted from the MCSPCA. You will receive a certificate of registration through the mail within a few months.

**Post-Adoption Veterinary Visit:** Adopters are **required** to take their new cat/kitten to their own veterinarian within 2 weeks of adoption for a physical exam, additional flea treatment, and a fecal examination. Kittens receive a 1<sup>st</sup> distemper vaccination, worming, and a flea treatment before adoption. Kittens who are too young to receive spay/neuter surgery, rabies vaccination and a microchip will need to come back to our clinic for these services, which are included in the adoption fee. Our Vogel Spay/Neuter Clinic will contact the adopter to schedule an appointment. If our clinic has not been able to contact the adopter, the adopter should call 732-542-3125 to schedule an appointment.

*Please remember that your newly-adopted pet lived at the MCSPCA with many animals. While we strive to adopt out only healthy animals, the cat/kitten you are adopting may show signs of illness once in your home. It is the responsibility of the adopter to register for Free Pet Insurance and take the animal for any necessary treatment to his/her own veterinarian at his/her own expense.*

## Grooming

**Brushing and combing:** Regular grooming sessions of 5-15 minutes a day do more than just keep your animal happy and healthy. These sessions strengthen your bond and allow you to check your cat's appearance to see that he/she stays in peak condition. For long-haired breeds, use a comb to remove the dead undercoat that frequently causes matting. Because cats/kittens clean themselves, if they're not brushed often, they will be prone to hairballs. Their coat should be shiny, clean and not matted.

**Bathing:** If brushed regularly and frequently, cats won't need a bath. Wipe your cat/kitten down with a wet washcloth every now and then. This will help to keep the coat clean and prevent excessive shedding.

**Dental care: Beware of Bad Breath!** It's important to care for your cat's/kitten's teeth. The buildup of tartar and plaque may lead to periodontal issues. These issues can also cause or worsen other conditions of the heart, kidney, and respiratory system.

**Eyes and Ears:** Eyes should be bright, clear and free of discharge. Ears should be clean and free of discharge and odor. Untreated ear problems are painful and can cause hearing loss.

**Nail Care:** The MCSPCA does not recommend declawing adult cats. If you must declaw, it should be done within the first 6 months of age, along with spay/neuter surgery. **Declawing can cause negative behavioral effects such as biting and not using a litter box.**

Clipping a cat's claws is a humane and effective alternative to declawing. When you bring your cat/kitten home, pet its paws frequently to get him/her accustomed to having that area handled so you can clip his or her claws. Clip nails every 2 weeks or when needed. Never use a human nail clipper, which can split a cat's/kittens nails. Your vet or groomer can show you how to clip long nails so you don't accidentally cut the quick.

## Feeding

**Water:** Your cat should always have fresh water available in a clean bowl. Never give a cat or kitten milk.

**What to Feed:** The MCSPCA feeds a combination of Hill's Science Diet adult or kitten dry food and canned food. Hill's is a premium-grade food and can be purchased in most major pet food stores. We recommend that you stick with this diet until you consult with your veterinarian for a diet tailored to your cat's needs. Limit fish flavors in your cat's diet to avoid Urinary Tract Infection problems.

**When to Feed:** Dry food should be made available to your cat/kitten all day for nibbling, unless your cat is overweight. In that case, dry food should be pre-measured and given in small portions. Canned food should be given 2 times a day.





“Life’s a voyage that’s homeward bound.”

Herman Melville

