



## **Congratulations on Adopting a Loving Shelter Dog!**

Thank you so much for adopting a very special dog. The trainers in the program have worked diligently these past few months, and we all hope you enjoy the loving companionship of the shelter dog they trained for you. To help ease the transition of your newest family member into your home, please read the following recommendations.

### **Bringing Your New Dog Home**

This is a very exciting time for everyone, but your dog will most likely be confused and stressed. **Please be patient with your new friend and give him time to get to know his new home and family.** Once you get home, offer your dog some water, then walk him out to the place you want him to go potty - he most likely need "to go" after all the day's excitement! All our dogs are potty trained, but you need to make sure they have frequent bathroom breaks during these first few days in order to avoid potential accidents. Your dog requires time to get used to a new routine in your home, and he will try his best to make you happy! So please accustom him to a consistent routine: regular potty breaks, scheduled eating and playtimes. It usually takes about 3-4 weeks for dogs to really settle in and become comfortable, some sooner than others. The more reliable their schedules are, the faster they will feel at home in their new surroundings. Please do NOT overwhelm the newest member of your family by introducing him to LOTS of people and new places or by taking him to the nearest dog park the first week. PLEASE give him a chance to settle in s-l-o-w-l-y. This will make it much easier for your dog to feel secure in his new home while getting to know you and your family.

Your dog is used to getting up early and going outside for his first potty break before his breakfast and should always be taken out for his last potty break before you go to bed. Take your dog, on leash, to the same spot where you want him to go to the bathroom and say "Go Potty." Walk him around the area so that he can sniff and pick out his spot. Once he "marks" a few places, he will recognize this as his new bathroom. As soon as your dog steps out of his crate (more on this on page 2), he needs a potty break! Don't play with him first; just get him outside to take care of business. This will help to reduce the possibility of accidents in the house during the first few days.

The dogs eat 2 times each day: breakfast and dinner. Because of stress, some dogs may not eat much for the first day or two. This is NORMAL and their appetites will return. PLEASE do NOT feed the dog "people food" because it is not good for them. Just give them the recommended amount of Nature's Select dog food and soft treats for training!

## A Few Recommended Supplies

### Name Tag

Please get a tag with your dog's name, your home and cell phone numbers. Many lost dogs could be quickly returned to their owners if they only had a name tag! All our dogs have Avid MicroChips, but they need to be scanned by either a vet or shelter before an owner can be reached. **A name tag is the fastest way to get a lost dog back home!**

### 2 Bowls

One for food and one for water. Your dog should have free access to water all day long. To help your dog feel more secure and to help him acclimate to his new crate, we recommend feeding your dog inside his crate for the first week or so.

### Food

The dogs are currently eating **Nature's Select Classic Nutrition Recipe**. Please do not change the dog food as it most likely will cause an upset stomach. The dogs are responding well to this food and yard clean-up is significantly better compared to other dog foods. It is more cost effective and much better quality compared to other dog foods. Your dog will go home with specific instructions regarding feeding portions. Please contact **Chad at Nature's Select, 714-993-5500**, and tell him you're adopting one of Janette's Cell Dogs and he'll take very good care of you. They also provide free home delivery for all food orders.

### Crate

All our dogs are crate trained and they happily spend a handful of hours each day in their crates, their personal "bedrooms." I would **STRONGLY** recommend that you obtain a crate since it's the safest place for your dog when you leave the house. Please do **NOT** leave your dog alone to roam your house when you're not home until you are confident he is comfortable and trustworthy (this could take a few weeks to a few months depending on your schedule). This way, you won't have to worry about coming home to a doggie-decorated interior! Because of the change in his environment, your new dog might whine or cry when you leave. Please do not let him out of the crate when he does this as you'll be setting up a pattern that will be difficult to break later on.

Remember, at least in the beginning, to feed your dog in his crate so that he can get used to his new home. You can give him yummy treats while he's in his crate, and he will happily rest and relax when you're gone - just think of it as a playpen for a dog! A stuffed Kong is a wonderful treat to give your dog when you leave for a while. He will love you for it!

PLEASE do not bother your dog when he is eating. Just feed him in his crate and give him a chance to relax and feel safe.

You'll also need a crate pad or something soft for your dog to lay on while he's inside the crate - i.e. doggie bed, etc...

### Grooming Tool

The trainers have done a great job taking care of their dogs and they've brushed them regularly with a Zoom Groom or Slicker Brush, depending on the dog's coat. The Zoom Groom is a rubber grooming tool which you'll find in the same store aisle with other dog grooming supplies. In my humble opinion, a Zoom Groom is the best grooming tool for most dogs because it removes lots of dead hair with the ease of a rubber grooming tool. Please be aware that shedding season is just

around the corner. Dogs need to be brushed regularly since they shed all year long, but there are 2 shedding seasons, primarily late spring and early winter.

The dogs will most probably shed a bit more than usual due to stress, so please don't be alarmed if your dog seems to be losing lots of hair in the first week or so. Just brush him 2-3 times a week. This will help reduce the amount of shedding and it's a great way to bond and relax with your new best friend.

**Leash**

Please bring a 4 or 6 foot leash with you when you pick up your dog. He will go home with the collar he is currently wearing.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have. And thank you again for adopting one of our wonderful program pups. I am confident you will enjoy many years of unconditional love and affection and lots of doggie kisses!

Best regards,  
Janette

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