

~~~ **IMPORTANT CARE FOR YOUR NEW PET** ~~~

***Congratulations on the adoption of your new family member! Please take some time to learn these very important care requirements:***

***# 1 - Your Pet Must See Your Vet Within 30 Days*** to establish a patient record and obtain preventative medicines. Please give your vet a copy of the adoption contract. Please contact the foster parent for advice on health problems that occur within 30 days. Please note, if you choose to have your vet treat the problem we cannot reimburse your vet expenses.

***# 2 - Monthly Heartworm Preventative*** is absolutely necessary throughout your dog's entire life! A heartworm infection is expensive, painful and dangerous to treat. Heartworms are transmitted through mosquito bites, which can occur year-round in Georgia. We recommend that you *consult your vet about heartworm "plus" products* which are also effective against hookworms and roundworms.

Dog and cat parasites are not normally a risk to humans when you follow your vet's recommendations. However, some parasites such as hookworms and roundworms can cause very serious health complications in humans including blindness. These worms are transmitted by ingesting eggs, which can survive in the soil for several years. Fresh feces are not infective since the worms must age for several weeks. As a general rule, feces should be removed from play areas and children should always wash their hands after playing in dirt and sand. (Wild animals also carry parasites).

***# 3 - Annual Rabies Vaccination*** is required by law. If your pet bites someone and is not up to date, you can be in serious legal trouble. The rabies vaccination cannot be given before 4 months of age. If you adopt a puppy or kitten under 4 months of age *you are responsible for the vaccination.*

***# 4 - Annual DHLPP/FVRCP Vaccination*** is required for your pet's health. If you have adopted a puppy or kitten, you must *complete the booster series* (usually every 3 weeks until 4 months of age). Some of these diseases are highly contagious and can kill your pet. *Consult your vet about recommended adult vaccinations.*

We offer low cost Rabies and DHPP/FVRCP vaccinations on certain dates: [www.paradoxspayneuter.com](http://www.paradoxspayneuter.com)

***# 5 - Flea and Tick Prevention*** is required for a healthy and comfortable environment for both you and your pet. Tapeworms are transmitted when your dog or cat ingests fleas and ticks carry a number of bad diseases. We recommend that you *consult your vet to purchase the fastest, safest and most effective flea and tick solutions.* Another slower but safe flea treatment plan includes soapy baths, frequent vacuuming and lightly dusting *food grade diatomaceous earth* on carpeting, bedding and pet's fur. Infested outdoor areas can be treated with *Sevin dust* but it is highly toxic so read the instructions.

***# 6 - Your Dog Needs a Secure Fenced Area, Correctly Sized Crate or Cage, a Good Collar with Identification, Leash, Brush, Good Quality Food and Fresh Water.*** If your dog will be outside most of the time you will need a dog house or dog door. "Invisible fences" and tie-outs are not recommended.

Many behavioral problems are related to things that separate the dog from the pack leader (you!). Other problems are related to lack of purposeful activity, which is why daily walks are necessary for all dogs. We recommend *basic obedience classes for all dogs and puppies.* Please get the proper facilities and training so everyone will be happy!



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