



**Dog Adoption Packet**

# Congratulations on Your Adoption!

Thank you for choosing to adopt from Great River Rescue. We are so excited for you and hope that you and your pet have a wonderful and positive experience at home. We have put together this packet to provide you with some useful tips and information to make the transition to a new home smooth.

First off, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your adoption, do not hesitate to contact us. We can be reached Tuesday – Friday from 12:30 to 5:30 pm and Saturdays from 12:30 to 4:30 pm at 218-751-7910. You can email us at [info@greatriverrescue.com](mailto:info@greatriverrescue.com).

Taking home a new pet can be a big change for you, your pet, and your family. We advise all adopters to be as prepared as possible for that change. Keep in mind though, no matter how well you prepare, you may need to be flexible. Animals are unpredictable and behaviors that we see in the shelter, may be different once an animal gets home. As stated in your adoption contract, we strongly advise you to bring your new pet to your veterinarian within the first few days of the adoption. Although we disclose all known medical issues, it is important to introduce your vet to your new pet, and make sure there aren't any issues or concerns we were not aware of. Remember, Great River Rescue is not a veterinary service and we can not diagnose and treat medical issues on our own.

At our website, [www.greatriverrescue.com/contact/resources/](http://www.greatriverrescue.com/contact/resources/) you can find a variety of links from reputable sources related pet adoption, animal behavior, animal body language, and more. Please visit our site for valuable information and tips that will make your adoption transition better for you, your family and your pet. Some of the web links included are:

- Best Friends of Animals Resource Library
- ASPCA Adopt-a-Pet Resources
- Good Dog in a Box Dog Training and Bite Prevention Resources
- All Things Dog examples of Dog Body Language
- Tuft & Paw Guide to Cat Behavior and Body Language
- Animal Humane Society Pet Behavior Library

Remember, many of our shelter pets have been through a lot. You may hope that the animal will immediately fit right into your home, but sometimes it takes time. Being moved from place to place can be stressful and scary. Be caring and considerate and before long, your pet will be another member of the family!

## Your Adoption Includes:

Intake Wellness Exam  
Spay or Neuter  
Vet Recommended Vaccinations  
Dewormer  
Flea/Tick Treatment in some cases  
Blood Test in some cases

Upon your adoption, we give you quite a bit of paperwork and other items. With your focus being on your new pet, we provide this list as an overview of what you are getting with your adoption. Please note that depending on the circumstances, you may not have all of these items, or you may have more. Our desk worker will let you know if you have anything extra.

1. **Your adoption contract** – The official record of your adoption. This contract outlines everything you need to know about your adoption. This may be printed or emailed to you.
2. **Your pet's vaccination and medical records**– All vaccinations and most recent medical treatments given by Great River Rescue are listed here including dates when booster shots are due. This may be printed or emailed to you.
3. **Your pet's post-surgical sheet** – The form given by the vet following a spay/neuter surgery. You will only get this form if your pet was spayed/neutered within the past two weeks.
4. **A coupon for a free Rabies vaccination** at the Animal Care Clinic. Please note that the vaccine is free but the exam is not. Make sure you call the Animal Care Clinic at 759-2222 to set up an appointment to get the Rabies vaccination.
5. **Other coupons and gifts** – Your packet may include other coupons for various pet products, treats, toys and other gifts.
6. **A Happy Tail Form** – We love to hear from our adopters about their experience with their new pet. Please upload your happy tail to our website, or send us back any pictures and happy stories.

## WHAT ARE WE VACCINATING FOR?

Great River Rescue provides a record of all vaccinations given to your pet during its stay at the shelter. All boosters and other treatments are the responsibility of the adopter once the animal is adopted.

Vaccinations provided by Great River Rescue are subject to change. Please refer to your pet's medical record for specific vaccines given. Call GRR with any questions.

**CATS FVRCP:** This vaccination is generally given once a year after boosters are completed. Please talk to your veterinarian to learn more.

FVR = Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis: severe upper respiratory infection that is dangerous to young kittens and older cats.

C = Calicivirus: several different strains of calicivirus, range of illness of mild infection to lifethreatening pneumonia.

P = Panleukopenia: also known as feline distemper- a highly contagious, fast-moving disease. It can affect cats of all ages, and can remain active in the environment for up to a year.

**DOGS DA2PP:** This vaccination is generally given once a year after boosters are completed. Please talk to your veterinarian to learn more.

D = Distemper: a serious and often deadly illness that can affect almost any canine, wild or domestic. Distemper is a contagious viral disease. Some early symptoms include: conjunctivitis (runny eyes), fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, and sometimes a nasal discharge.

A2 = Adenovirus type 2: Related to the hepatitis virus. Adenoviruses are spread directly from dog to dog through infected respiratory secretions or by contact with contaminated feces or urine. Some symptoms include dry coughing, sneezing, and watery nasal discharge.

P = Parvovirus: this highly contagious virus causes severe, usually bloody, diarrhea and vomiting. It is more commonly seen in puppies, but dogs of all ages can contract parvo. Proper vaccination is best preventative measure against parvo, as it can remain active in the environment for long periods of time.

P = Parainfluenza: a common, highly contagious, viral upper respiratory disease, transmitted by an infected dog when they are sneezing and coughing.

**Intra-trac 3:** This is an intra-nasal vaccination that is generally given once a year after the initial dose. It protects against Bordetella, canine parainfluenza virus, and canine adenovirus type 2. Please talk to your veterinarian to learn more.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT GREAT RIVER RESCUE DOES NOT PROVIDE A RABIES VACCINE.** Consult your veterinarian regarding a Rabies vaccination for your pet.

### **If you want to return your pet**

We understand that sometimes things just don't work out when bringing home a new pet. Great River Rescue allows pets to be returned from adoption and may provide a voucher good for adopting another pet within the next year. Please contact us if you are having issues or concerns. We may be able to help you keep your new pet in your home. Depending on space availability at the shelter, we may have to put you on our waiting list to bring the pet back to the shelter.



...TRANSITIONS DOGS AND CATS TO LOVING HOMES, SERVES AS A COMMUNITY RESOURCE, AND ADVOCATES FOR KIND, RESPONSIBLE PET CARE.

Thank you for giving one of our shelter friends a loving forever home. We love hearing how things are going with our adoptions. There are several ways you can share your story:

- 1) Fill out the back of this form and return it.
- 2) Email us at [happytails@greatriverrescue.com](mailto:happytails@greatriverrescue.com) with your story and photos.
- 3) Upload your happy tail to our Facebook page
  - a. Go to [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and search for Great River Rescue
  - b. Post a comment about your newly adopted friend with a photo
- 4) Upload your pet's photo to Instagram
  - a. If you have an Instagram account simply post some happy photos of you and your pet and tag the photo with `#great_river_rescue`

Thank you for adopting and sharing your Happy Tails with us!

**Tell us your "Happy Tail" here!**

Pets ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Pet's Shelter Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Adoption \_\_\_\_\_ Species: *Dog / Cat* Sex: *M / F*

Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate Age \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

Is your new pet adjusting to other pets? \_\_\_\_\_

Is your new pet adjusting to family members? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you happy with your new pet? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us your "HAPPY TAIL" (we may use this story in our newsletter, articles, or website)

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Please return this form to Great River Rescue by mail, fax (218-444-4154), or email (happytails@greatriverrescue.com). Please send photos if you would like.

Our mailing address: 1612 Carr Lake Rd SE, Bemidji, MN 56601



# Caring for a **Puppy or Dog**

Taking care of a dog or puppy is a big job! Find out what supplies you will need and what responsibilities you will have to take care of your new best friend.

## Supplies Needed

- Premium quality dog food and treats for the right breed and size
- Food and water bowls – ceramic and metal bowls clean up better
- Safe toys – make sure there's no lead paint or breakable parts
- Dog brush and comb
- Dog shampoo
- Pooper scooper and biodegradable poop bags
- Collar with license and ID tag
- Leash
- Dog nail clippers
- Carrier or crate
- Dog bed
- Dog toothbrush and dog toothpaste

## What to Feed Your Puppy or Dog

- Adult dogs should eat premium-quality dry food. If you want, you can mix the dry food with water, low-salt broth or canned food
- Dogs can eat MOST fruits and vegetables, but never more than 10% of their daily diet. See the **Dangers!** list of foods that shouldn't be given to dogs.
- Puppies need a high-quality puppy food
- Avoid "people food" for all dogs and puppies
- Dogs and puppies need clean, fresh water available at all times

## **Dangers! Never Give Your Puppy or Dog**

- Anything harder than your pet's teeth. This includes cow bones, nylon bones and real bones. These can break a dog's teeth.
- House plants
- T-shirts or knotted socks. If accidentally chewed apart and ingested, they can become "foreign bodies", causing your pet to become very ill.
- Medicines unless it's recommended by a veterinarian
- Alcohol
- Chocolate
- Coffee
- Grapes and raisins
- Moldy or spoiled food
- Onions, garlic or chives
- Poultry bones
- Salty foods or salt
- Tomato leaves or stems
- Unripe fruit
- Nuts



# Caring for a **Puppy** or **Dog**

## **Exercise**

- Different dogs need different amounts of exercise. Some dogs need a lot. Some dogs get hurt if they exercise too much. Ask your veterinarian what's best for your pet.
- When walking your pet, be careful of ice or snow, deicer salt, or hot pavement

## **Daily Chores**

- Gently brush your dog's fur
- Play with your dog
- Walk your dog – ask your veterinarian how long and how much
- Brush your dog's teeth – chew toys aren't enough
- Clean up poop
- Clean water and food bowls
- Feed and water your pet

## **Monthly**

- Bathe your dog if needed. Some dogs don't need to be bathed monthly.
- Have your parents or guardian:
  - Check your dog's nails to see if they need to be clipped
  - Give your dog a heartworm pill from your veterinarian - no matter which state you live in!
  - Ask your veterinarian to see if your dog needs his/ her ear hair trimmed or if he/she needs his/her "anal glands expressed"
  - Apply a flea/tick prevention treatment

## **Be Gentle**

- Never hit a dog, they don't understand what hitting is
- Never grab your dog's fur or tail
- Don't force a tired dog to play

## **Get a License and ID**

- Follow your city's licensing laws
- Attach the license to your dog's collar
- Microchip your dog

## **Spay and Neuter**

- To prevent health problems, females should be spayed and males should be neutered. Check with your veterinarian on the appropriate age to spay or neuter your pet.
- Dogs that are spayed/neutered don't run away or fight as much

## **Yearly**

- Have your parent or guardian take your dog to your veterinarian for a check-up every year

