



## **Dog Adopter Tips: The Great Outdoors!**

Congratulations on adopting your new dog!

**We know you're excited to show them your world. They're going to be ready to explore it with you as they're settling in!**

One of the best ways to bond with your new pup is to go on walks together. Bring other members of the household for a family bonding experience!

Keeping your dog on leash at all times is safest for them, and it's the law in Philadelphia and many other areas. Even if they are trained, dogs can easily get distracted, and tragedy can strike if they run into the road at the wrong time.

Dogs enjoy hanging out in a yard as well, especially if it's kept clean and you're outside with them. Accidents can happen in yards if dogs are left out unwatched, so it's safest to make sure you've always got eyes on them!

### **Staying healthy**

Dogs are exposed to the world every day, there are lots of pests that can make them sick. Protect your dog against illness by routinely using:

- \*Flea preventative (monthly topical treatments – *not a collar* – be sure to use a vet-approved brand)
- \*Heartworm preventative (monthly)
- \*De-wormer (monthly, sometimes included in the heartworm preventative)
- \*Heartworm test (yearly)
- \*Vaccines up to date (yearly)

Remember, your dog's annual vet exam is the key to catching any health issues that might be hiding and ensuring you enjoy a long life together.

### **Collar and tags**

At all times, even when they're in the house, dogs should wear a collar and ID tag with their name and your phone number. Often dogs become lost when they run out the door.

Find the right collar size by making sure you can snugly fit two of your fingers between your pup's neck and collar.

A rabies tag is required by law in most places, and a dog license is required in the City of Philadelphia and many other counties. Personalized ID tags can be made at local pet stores or

ordered online. All PAWS pets are microchipped, which is a lifesaver if they ever end up in a shelter, but the #1 way to get your pet back is with a collar and tag!

A microchip is only helpful if your information is linked to it correctly. Keep the microchip information up to date – call PAWS to update any changes to your phone number or email address, and also register online with the site [foundanimals.org](http://foundanimals.org) (it's free!).