



## CANYON LAKE ANIMAL SHELTER SOCIETY

2170 Old Sattler Road, Startzville, TX 78133  
(830) 399-2527  
www.canyonlakeanimalshelter.com

### Adopting a Shelter Dog - CLASS Tips

- ❖❖ **Plan for your new family addition:** Your new dog must have shelter from the elements, healthy food and clean water daily. They also need socialization which includes people, new environments and other dogs as well as cats, deer and any other animal you may see in your neighborhood.
- ❖❖ **Understand Moving Day is Stressful:** Your new dog will be nervous, overly excited or scared. Introduce your dog to his new environment on leash, both inside and out. Dogs can become overwhelmed with their new environment and many problems can arise such as chewing shoes, table corners and other items, going to the bathroom in the house or going in areas you do not want them.
- ❖❖ **Keep your Dog from Becoming Lost:** Place a collar with current tags on your dog as soon as possible. A new dog does not yet understand you are their new family and are likely to run if given the opportunity. Don't let their cute face catch you off guard! You should keep your dog on leash at all times for the first several weeks. Initially, it's also suggested to keep a leash on your dog inside. Allowing the dog to explore on their own is a scary thing. They are much more relaxed if you show them around.
- ❖❖ **Don't Assume your Dog is House Trained:** Never assume your dog is house trained from day one. Make them prove it for at least three days of no accidents. To help with potty training it is suggested you keep a leash on your dog even while inside. You can attach the leash to you pant buckle. This makes the dog go everywhere you go and allows for no accidents. If the dog begins to go, simply say a stern NO and take the dog, with a happy voice, outside and allow them to finish.
- ❖❖ **Dog Proof your House and Yard:** Secure items your dog might chew on or swallow like electric cords, small toys, toxic plants, etc. Put human medications, harsh chemicals and hazardous materials out of your dog's reach.
- ❖❖ **Dog Behavior:** No dog is perfect and shelter dogs are no exception! ***It takes about 3 months for your dog to truly integrate into your family.*** Dogs need an adjustment period but it's really important that you guide your dog properly right from the start. Your dog may not bark for the first few weeks (or months) and then all of a sudden start. Don't take anything for granted. Immediately set boundaries of what is acceptable and be consistent (ie – not allowed on couch, allowed on bed when you are there, not allowed in dining room, etc.) Have your dog SIT for everything (when they want to go out/in, for food, to put the leash on, etc.) Consider an obedience class.
- ❖❖ **Budget for the short and long term costs of a dog:** CLASS has provided spay or neutering, initial vaccines and a microchip for permanent identification. There will be future vaccinations, vet bills, food and shelter costs. Don't adopt if you cannot afford to keep your dog safe and healthy.