

# RCAS Adoption Information Packet

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Randolph County Animal Shelter works very hard to match people with pets, and make the transition smooth. We have knowledge of your chosen pet, and can offer tips on him or others if they will fit into your family. We can offer insight into what breed will be best for your family needs; which breeds are most lively and need more exercise, which shed more, what their training needs, etc. Even with proper planning the new home surroundings can be overwhelming to a new pet at first, so please give your new critter a change to learn your house rules!

Keep fresh water out at all times and set up a feeding schedule and stick to it. Many owners feed their pets twice per day; morning and evening, rather than letting the pet 'graze at will'. This avoids overfeeding as well. Clean the food and water bowls daily with soap and water to avoid their ingesting bacteria.

Take your new pet to the veterinarian as soon as possible for an overall checkup and shots, and if not yet 'fixed' get him/her spayed or neutered as soon as possible after the age of 3 months. This operation will extend the life of your animal and avoid possible health issues caused by having 'all their parts'. And you will not be burdened by the cost of raising litters, or finding homes for pets, which could easily be avoided for the life of the pet! The vet will also advise on worming, heartworm, flea and tick prevention.

Care tips change depending on whether this is to be an inside pet or an outside pet.

## **The Inside Dog:**

Your new pet is going to need an area they can call their own, and that includes a bed and access to fresh water. Crate training is highly recommended, as it provides security and a bed. (A crate has a locking door, and all four sides of the crate have ventilation holes.) Crate training is also very effective if your pet has separation anxiety when you leave home, and they can feel safe in their crate until you return. The crate can also be helpful as a

housebreaking tool as most animals do not want to “potty” in their house. Remember to take the dog out often, starting with every 20 minutes and working up, to encourage housebreaking. Some people lay newspaper out for the potty area, and remove paper area as the dog learns; ie make the potty area smaller. Some dogs take longer to train than others, and your patience, positive reinforcement, and soft, kind words are the way to go!

Indoor dogs need plenty of exercise. This will help burn off energy and keep your new friend from getting bored and chewing up something you would prefer they did not. Provide plenty of fun toys and interact with them to give as much attention as possible. Teaching your dog basic obedience (sit, stay, down) will make things go more smoothly for you both. Everyone in the family needs to use the same command words, or the dog can't learn! Positive reinforcements gets the best training results; offer small treats for good behavior.

### **The Outside Dog:**

**An outside dog also needs veterinarian care and everything we wrote above, PLUS:** during the summer months be sure to provide your dog adequate shade at all times of the day, as well as a roofed area where no rain can touch, even when windy. Water and protection from sun/wind/water is crucial to your dog's comfort and safety. And during the cold months, be sure his water bowl is not frozen up...or your dog can die of dehydration even in the winter.

It is extremely important that your outside dog have a rabies shot, heartworm, flea and tick prevention. And make sure to do some basic obedience training too, so he will be a much better pet for you and visitors to deal with.

For more tips on animal care: [www.aspca.org](http://www.aspca.org)