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Useful Information

Rocket Dog Rescue (415) 642-4786

Veterinarians

Pacifica Pet Hospital (650) 359-3685

Irving Street Veterinary Hospital (415) 664-0191

San Francisco SPCA (415) 554-3000

Emergency Veterinarians

San Francisco Veterinary Specialists (415) 401-9200

San Rafael Branch (SF Vet. Specialists) (415) 455-8317

Pets Unlimited (415) 563-6700

All Animals Emergency Hospital (1333 9th Ave) (415) 566-0531.

Holistic Veterinarian

SF Veterinary Specialists (415) 401-9200

Poison Control Hotline (888) 232-8870

Behavioral Resources

There are many resources out there. The following are some who are currently helping us:

UC Davis (Behavioral Service) (530) 752-1393

SF/SPCA (Free helpline-Basic training questions) (415) 901-6646

Obedience Classes

Youngblood Harris (Private Trainer) (415) 722 8565

A Better Way Dog Training (Classes) (415) 648-3647

Pacifica Pet Hospital (Classes) (650) 359-3685

San Francisco SPCA (Classes + Privates) (415) 664-8621

or (415) 554-3095

Grooming

Kosita's Pet Grooming

(1st visit is discounted for Rocket Dogs!)

(415) 643 3650

Websites

Rocket Dog Rescue

<http://www.rocketdogrescue.org/index.htm>

SF Dog

<http://www.sfdog.org/index.htm>

SF/SPCA

<http://www.sfspca.org/behavior/>

Pit Bull Rescue Central

<http://www.pbrc.net/home.html>

Humane Society of US

<http://www.hsus.org/ace/11868>

Training and Behavior

<http://www.k9chops.com>



YOUR NEW ROCKET DOG!

A Rocket Dog is a Rocket Dog for life. These dogs have already been to shelters or rescued from abusive or neglectful situations and we do not want them to go back to that. Please remember that the first week with a new dog in your home will always be the most difficult and please be understanding of this. This dog doesn't know you from anyone and is most likely coming out of a not so great situation so please allow some time for you to get comfortable with your new dog and vice versa. You really are saving a life and if you stick with it, the reward will be far greater than any house training accident!



YOUR NEW DOG - STARTING OUT RIGHT

SUPPLIES

- Dog food
- Water bowl, food bowl or Kongs / food Treats for training
- Toys (chew bones, chew toys)
- Bed (dog bed, blanket or towels)
- Crate and/or baby gates
- Put all these supplies in your new dog's confinement area (see below).

SETUP

Set up a **confinement area**, a place your dog will stay when you can't provide 100% supervision i.e. you're out, or busy around the house, and can't watch him the entire time.

The ideal confinement area should be easy to clean and easy to close off with a door or baby gate. It should be mostly free of furniture and non-dog related objects (remember, everything is a potential chew toy to a dog!). The best place for a confinement area is the kitchen, laundry room, porch, empty spare room or small indoor/outdoor area.

Furnish the confinement area with a bed or a crate with something soft to sleep on, a water bowl and several toys, including a favorite bone or chew toy. Note: The confinement area should be the only place your dog gets to have his favorite toy.

You might think the word “confinement” has a negative connotation, but your dog’s confinement area is not a negative thing. It’s positive. The confinement area is a place your dog can call his own as he makes the transition to his new home. It’s where he gets good things, like meals and his favorite toy. It sets him up for success in the process of housetraining and alone-time training.

People often give a new dog complete freedom right away. Then, when he has an accident or chews the wrong thing, they confine him, and confinement becomes punishment. If you start out giving your dog the run of the house, you’re setting him up for failure. Better to give him a safe, confined place, so he can make a gradual and successful transition to his new home.

CRATE TRAINING

A crate is a valuable tool for a new adopter. Like a confinement area, a crate eases the process of housetraining, chew training and alone-time training. It helps your dog make the transition to his new home. (See Crate Training Handout)

DOG PROOFING YOUR HOME

Dogs, especially young ones or untrained ones, are like children and will get into everything. This can be very stressful for you and at worst, your house can be deadly for your dog. The kitchen and garage need to be dog proofed. Kitchen cleansers, soaps, drain cleaners will kill your pet if ingested. In the garage, detergents, cleaners, anti-freeze, paint removers, garden supplies such as weed killers, snail bait, fertilizers etc. can all be deadly. Bathrooms also contain similar items. Be careful.

The garden can also be a dangerous area. There are many plants and bulbs (inside and out) that are poisonous. It is very important that you check for mushrooms during damp weather as these can be lethal with only a small amount.

Dog-proofing your home also means making sure that you have secure high fences and gates that are locked. And remember, chocolate is also deadly to dogs so keep it out of reach.

ARRIVAL

- When you arrive at home, take your dog out for a walk or bathroom break.
- Introduce him on leash to his new home, including his confinement area.
- Give your dog a chew bone or a stuffed Kong and leave him alone in the confinement area for approximately 5 minutes.
- If your dog begins to howl, whine, or bark, wait until he has been quiet for at least ten seconds before you respond. Otherwise, your dog will learn that whining or barking makes you appear or gets him out of the confinement area, and he'll bark or cry for longer periods of time.

You must get your dog used to short absences starting within the first few hours his arrival. This is extremely important. You'll want to spend every minute with your dog when he first comes home, but you should prepare him right away for a normal routine. He must learn to be relaxed, calm and settled when he's alone. Alone-time training is necessary because dogs are highly social animals and being alone doesn't come naturally to them.

Leave your dog alone in his confinement area while you go out or spend time in another part of the house. Vary the length of your absences, from 30 seconds to 20 minutes, and repeat them throughout the day. If your dog seems comfortable, you can increase the amount of time he's left alone. **Remember, it may take several days or weeks for your dog to make the transition to his new home.**

QUIET TIME

We recommend that after you bring your new adopted dog home, let her check out the area of the house where she is allowed and let her figure things out for 3-4 hours with you supervising. Wait a couple of days before inviting friends etc. over to meet the new dog. Rescue dogs have already been through a series of changes, so quiet time with her immediate family is important. If the dog wants to play a bit with you, that's fine but do NOT allow her to interact with young children yet. If the dog does not solicit play or attention from you, let her establish herself for a while. Don't force her to play.

BEDTIME

Put a chew toy in your dog's crate or sleeping area when you leave him for the night. He may have trouble settling in at first, but he should eventually relax and go to sleep. Remember, it's important not to let your dog out of his confinement area if he's crying or barking. If he gets attention for barking, he'll keep it up for long periods of time.

SOCIALIZATION

Rescue dogs come from a variety of backgrounds but all dogs can do with more socialization!!! (This is especially important for Foster dogs. We want them to be as well socialized as possible.) After your new dog has had some time to settle in and he is showing some confidence in you, give him lots of pleasant social experiences. He should be able to meet people (and other dogs, if he's not dog-aggressive) at home and near home. Then perhaps in new places like parks, obedience school, etc.

Try to make sure that you allow your new dog to be handled by other people only after he has a chance to trust you. Then do introductions to other people gradually. Family members first, then friends he knows. Introductions can take the form of petting, playing fetch, even going for a walk with a trusted, dog-oriented friend. Do not force the dog to accept people, allowing HIM to approach people, rather than people approaching the dog. Use treats and have patience if he is reticent to allow other people to touch or play with him. He'll usually come around with time.

At first, be sure to tell people NOT reach for the dog right away. Let him come when he wants to. If he doesn't, the visitor should completely ignore the dog. Suggest that after the dog has met/sniffed the new person, that they pat the SIDE of the dog's neck or side of shoulder. Patting the top of a dog's head is interpreted by dogs as a dominance attempt and can issue a challenge to some dogs or frighten others. Most dogs have no problem with this but since some do, it is always best to exercise caution.

HOUSETRAINING

Some adult dogs are not housetrained. If your dog has an accident, it's not because he's incapable or unintelligent, it's because he has not been properly trained. To successfully housetrain your dog, you need to treat him like an 8-week-old pup. The confinement area is your key to success.

- Until your dog is perfectly housetrained, never leave him alone unless he's in his confinement area.
- **He must be 100% supervised when he's outside his confinement area.**
- Take your dog out on leash frequently. Start by walking him at half-hour intervals.
- If you see your dog sniffing and circling in the house, take him out **immediately.**
- Praise and reward him with a treat (cookie) when he relieves himself outdoors.
- **Never** yell or punish your dog for a potty accident in the house. See our "Housetraining" handout for detailed instructions.

FOOD

At Rocket Dog we usually feed our dogs **Natural Balance Dog Food**. Wellness and California Natural dog foods are also used. They are a bit more expensive however we find the dogs are healthy and we tend not to have problems with these foods. A good diet can make a big difference for the rest of your dog's life.

You will do well for your dogs, if you buy a good quality dry dog food (one without by-products). Dress it with some meat broth (no salt added), leftover vegetables or lean meat scraps. Dogs with allergies or dry skin can often be helped with an Omega fatty acid supplement.

A raw food diet is another healthy option for your dog. For more information, contact Kasie@speakeasy.net or check out the website www.sfraw.com

A Vegan/Vegetarian diet is also another option for your dog. For more information, contact laura@rocketdogrescue.org

WATER

Just as your dog needs proper nutrition from his food, water is an essential “nutrient” as well. Water keeps the dog’s body properly hydrated and promotes normal function of the body’s systems. During housebreaking, it is necessary to keep an eye on how much water your dog is drinking. Once he is reliably trained, he should have access to clean fresh water at all times. Make sure that the dog’s water bowl is clean and change the water often.

EXERCISE

- Dogs need both physical exercise and mental stimulation.
- **Remember: A tired dog is a happy dog!**
- Depending on your dog’s energy level, he will benefit greatly from daily aerobic exercise. Off-leash romps in secured areas, running or jogging, interactive games such as fetch, all help burn energy and keep your dog from getting bored and frustrated. (Don’t let your dog off leash in unsecured areas, and make sure he wears an ID tag.)
- Daily obedience training and food “puzzle” toys provide your dog with mental stimulation.
- Dog training classes help burn off mental and physical energy. They also provide an opportunity to practice off-leash recalls. Training classes are fun for dogs and people alike.

A CAUTION ABOUT PLAY TIME

Physical games like tug-of-war, wrestling, jumping and teasing should not be encouraged. Inciting a dog’s crazy behavior tends to confuse him. The owner has to be able to control his/her dog at all times. Even in play, your dog has to know that you are the leader.

TRAINING

If you’ve **adopted** a dog we strongly encourage you to enroll your dog in obedience classes. This builds up the relationship between you and your dog and is a way for you to gain confidence in training and have control over your dog. There are also private trainers who will come to your home and work with you and your dog on an individual basis. See our “Useful Information” list.

Fosterers should be prepared to teach "their" dogs the basics.

Teach them "Sit". Have them sit for their meals or any other 'treats' you might give them. A dog that is able to walk nicely on a leash is far more attractive than a dog that drags her new owner down the street. If you need advice on how to train your dog, please call Tara (Foster Home Coordinator) and she'll be happy to go through the basics with you. Alternatively, come to our meetings and we can show you there.

When walking your dog, always keep your dog on a leash. It is extremely important with a new dog that you make sure her collar fits snugly. If she is startled and backs away from you, make sure her head can't come out of the collar. A new dog, in a new environment, will be gone in a second and may not come back to you. She doesn't know you and has no reason to take heed of you.

PATIENCE

Your new dog needs your patience and affection, especially if he has been in many different situations recently. Whenever he does something good, be sure to let him know! Happy praise and affection really helps him to know that you care and that he is good. This includes if he is lying quietly and behaving himself.... Let him know that this is desirable behavior.

A WORD OF WARNING

Be careful when you leave your dog in the car. Sitting in a car on a *warm* day, not an especially hot day, the temperature inside will triple within a short time, even if the windows are cracked open. Park in the shade, leave the windows sufficiently open for good ventilation or don't leave the dog in the car.

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Post-Adoption Adult Housetraining Successlist

- Expect confusion & mistakes first few days even in a trained dog
- *Vital to use a crate and/or a confinement area* so as to not allow opportunities for accidents first week or two – also helps chew-training efforts. Set dog up to succeed
- If using a crate, it should be just large enough for dog to turn around in and stretch out
- If using a confinement area, confine to one uncarpeted room (kitchen ideal) with petproof gates
- Can always relax the regime later but very tough to start relaxed and then try to tighten up if there's a problem – set dog up for success in early weeks
- Provide extra opportunities to eliminate outside:
 - First thing in the morning
 - After eating
 - Every 2 – 3 hours
 - Last thing before bed
 - If dog doesn't eliminate on any particular outing, try again an hour later
- Accompany dog to eliminate – *go with him* rather than sending him so that:
 - 1) you know whether he's gone or not
 - 2) you can reward at the right instant – praise and small food treat as he finishes
- Go to the same spot to make it easier, or at least the same kind of surface
- Praise and reward all outdoor elimination for first few days – later can slack off (okay to continue praising)
- Praise and reward every time he gets it right

- Interrupt him ("Ah! Ah! Let's go outside!") at the *start* of any mistakes indoors, then hustle him outside to finish. If he finishes outside, praise and reward this. Note: *interrupt*, not punish. Punishment is not a good idea in early relationship with a new dog, and of dubious value at any time. And, even more importantly, if the dog makes a mistake unsupervised, never, ever punish – there is zero connection to the act that happened earlier.
- Clean all accidents thoroughly with an enzymatic cleanser (e.g. Nature's Miracle)
- Add one extra room of house at a time every few days if dog is successful supervise closely every time a room is added
- Gradually extend the duration between opportunities, adding ~a half hour per week
- It is reasonable to expect an adult dog to hold on 4 – 5 hours max. Of course, many dogs *can* hold on longer but is it humane to make them?
- Sudden onset of indoor elimination in a trained dog may indicate a medical problem – consult your veterinarian immediately before getting behavior help
- BE PATIENT! DON'T LOSE YOUR COOL. MOST DOGS WILL HAVE ACCIDENTS IN THE BEGINNING.

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Note: Submissive urination is not a house training issue. Dogs/puppies can urinate a small amount with fear and excitement or to please you by showing submissiveness. You can tell the difference between submissive urination and regular housebreaking issues by the amount and circumstances in which it occurs. As the dog gets accustomed to his/her environment this should stop. Do not reprimand your dog for doing this. It could actually increase the behavior.

Everything you ever wanted to know about... **Housetraining**
Puppies

To begin with you will require the following:

- a) a crate only large enough for the puppy to stand up and turn around comfortably in
- b) a schedule for going outside
- c) treats for whenever you go outside with the dog
- d) good observing skills to prevent accidents
- e) patience

A) Crate

The puppy must be crated whenever you're away or can't actively supervise, i.e. when you're busy around the house, sleeping etc. This will make him hold on so that you can have a success outside later. If you find the puppy is soiling his crate, the likelihood is that the crate is too large: the puppy can use part of it as a toilet. Speak to us if he's is a chronic crate soiler.

B) Schedule

You must provide the puppy with a set schedule for eating and for going outside. If you are away for longer than 4 hours, have someone come to the house to take the puppy out. Optimally, there is always someone at home during the housetraining period.

A typical puppy schedule looks like this:

1. First thing in the morning
2. A few minutes after each meal. This is often when puppies will have a bowel movement. You will discover your own puppy's rhythm.

Crate and Confinement Training Pointers

- Begin crate and/or dog-proofed confinement practice right away – first day home
- Start with a few minutes and build up.
- Put the dog in the crate using small, tasty food treats
- Do not let the dog out if he's whining or barking. He will quickly learn that this gets him out. Wait for a break of even a few seconds.
- Put crate next to sofa, rent video and keep dog in crate next to you while he works on stuffed Kongs and other chewies (pig's ears, rawhides etc.)
- If using confinement area, hang out with dog there, reading while dog works chewies
- The first two or three times the dog is left alone in the crate or confinement area, he should be *tired* (just exercised), the time should be *short* (15-30 minutes) and he should have a good *chewie*
- The crate is always a positive space. Never *Never* use the crate as punishment.

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PULLING ON LEASH: EQUIPMENT OPTIONS

The solution to pulling on leash varies depending on the individual dog and owner. There are products on the market designed to help owners reduce pulling. The following is a summary of the pros and cons of the four most popular ones. Please seek advice on how to use any of these products.

ADVANTAGES

DISADVANTAGES

ANTI -PULL HARNESS

Eg: "Sporn" or "Sense-ible/sense-ation" harnesses. Front clip harnesses.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Easy Acceptance | 1. Does not work on many dogs or else works only temporarily |
| 2. Humane | |
| 3. Low Injury Risk | |

HEAD HALTER

Eg: Gentle Leader. Halti, Head collar/halter.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Works on most dogs | 1. Not accepted instantly by most dogs adjustment period |
| 2. Humane | |
| 3. Low Injury Risk | 2. Appearance: to untrained eye, resembles a muzzle |
| 4. Long proven track record controlling other species of animals | |

PRONG/POWER COLLAR

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Works on most dogs | 1. Pain as motivator. |
| 2. Easy acceptance | 2. Increases pain tolerance in some dogs |
| 3. Low Injury Risk | |

CHOKER

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Easy acceptance | 1. High, acute and cumulative injury risk |
| | 2. Does not work on many dogs or else works only temporarily |
| | 3. Pain as motivator. |
| | 4. Risk of accidental death by strangulation if left on unattended dog. |

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Why Stuff a Kong?

Dogs are animals that are genetically programmed to hunt for their food. Part of the reason there is such a prevalence of behavior problems in pet dogs is that they have so little mental challenge or work to do: their food is given to them for free. Zoos have had some success in decreasing behavior problems and improving the quality of life of many of their predator and primate species by giving them problems to solve in order to obtain their food. This same environmental enrichment concept can be applied to domestic dogs, who thoroughly enjoy finding hidden food and unpacking stuffed chew toys.

- Easy stuffings are: loose and incorporate small, easy-to-fall-out pieces
- More difficult stuffings are: tighter, with some big pieces that take concerted effort and hole-squishing to get in (and thus will be difficult to extract)
- You can employ a matrix (peanut butter, cream cheese, canned food, toddler food) to hold the smaller bits in and give the dog side-polishing challenges
- Hide regular stuffed or nested Kongs around the house so the dog has to hunt around to find them before unpacking them
- Clean your Kongs regularly with a bottle brush and/or in the dishwasher

Kong Stuffers

roasted unsalted cashews, mild cheese chunks, freeze dried liver bits, dog kibble, cookies or Liver Biscotti, Cheerios, sugar-free/salt-free peanut butter, dried banana chips, baby carrot stick(s), turkey and/or leftover ravioli or tortellini, dried apples, dried apricots

Pack as tightly as possible.

"Lite" Version

For cashews, substitute crumbled rice cake; for freeze-dried liver, substitute Caesar croutons; for peanut butter substitute fat-free cream cheese.

Check out www.kongcompany.com



INTRODUCING YOUR DOG TO THE NEW DOG

It is very important to do a “proper introduction” with a new dog. This may be the most important step you take when introducing a new dog to your current dog. If done correctly, the transition can be very smooth.

Do NOT introduce the dogs in the house right away. Before allowing them to meet, take both dogs to a neutral spot. Make sure there are 2 adults present, each responsible for one dog. Each dog should be on a sturdy, 6 foot leash, with a collar on that they cannot slip out of. Try pretending that you are out on a walk with both dogs, on leash, meeting as nonchalantly as possible. Keep the leashes loose but remain vigilant. Try to transmit that you are relaxed.

It is important not to let the dogs stare at each other – this is a challenging stance. Once the dogs sniff and are ok, you might want to continue walking with them a bit to relax everybody. Then you can walk or drive them home. If walking home, let your original dog lead, as if she is “inviting” the new dog into the home.

When you get home, you might want to have a spray bottle or shake-can (something noisy) handy, in case a fight breaks out. While still introducing the dogs, you can drop their leashes (but leave them on) as you watch their reactions. Try to have another adult around to help in case there’s a scuffle that gets carried away. If there’s a scuffle, don’t panic. Anything less than 3 seconds is just “discussion”. If you count to 3 and their still “at it”, then it’s a fight and needs to be broken up! If it’s not easy to break them up, a loud noise or a cold dose of water works wonders!

If you see dominance struggles between the dogs, always support the dominant dog. But don’t let him pulverize the lesser dog! Don’t soothe the lesser dog but jolly him up with a happy attitude. The dominant dog should get his food bowl and treats first, be greeted first in the evening. The dominant dog may not be your first dog. This may be more problematic for you than the dogs. Remember, the dogs will be much happier once the ‘pecking order’ is established.



Introducing your cat to your new dog

This is something that needs to be done with care and sensitivity since the cat has probably been in your life for a while and we want to keep it that way! ANY dog, even cat friendly/tolerant dogs, can act poorly when meeting a new cat if the introduction is done wrong. Here are some tips:

*Practice Obedience

If your dog doesn't already know the commands "sit," "down," "come" and "stay," you should begin working on them. Even if your dog already knows these commands, work with obeying commands in return for a tidbit.

*Controlled Meeting

After your new cat and resident dog have become comfortable eating on opposite sides of the door, and have been exposed to each other's scents as described above, you can attempt a face-to-face introduction in a controlled manner. Put your dog's leash on, and using treats, have him either sit or lie down and stay. Have another family member or friend enter the room and quietly sit down next to your new cat, but don't have them physically restrain her. Have this person offer your cat some special pieces of food or catnip. At first, the cat and the dog should be on opposite sides of the room. Lots of short visits are better than a few long visits. Don't drag out the visit so long that the dog becomes uncontrollable. Repeat this step several times until both the cat and dog are tolerating each other's presence without fear, aggression or other undesirable behavior.

*Let Your Cat Go

Next, allow your cat freedom to explore your dog at her own pace, with the dog still on-leash and in a "down-stay." Meanwhile, keep giving your dog treats and praise for his calm behavior. If your cat runs away or becomes aggressive, you're progressing too fast. Go back to the previous introduction steps.

*Directly Supervise All Interactions Between Your Dog And Cat

You may want to keep your dog on-leash and with you whenever your cat is free in the house during the introduction process. Be sure that your cat has an escape route and a place to hide. Keep your dog and cat separated when you aren't home until you're certain your cat will be safe.

*Precautions

Dogs like to eat cat food. You should keep the cat food out of your dog's reach (in a closet or on a high shelf). Eating cat feces is also a relatively common behavior in dogs. Although there are no health hazards to your dog, it's probably distasteful to you.

It's also upsetting to your cat to have such an important object "invaded." The best solution is to place the litter box where your dog can't access it,

*A Word About Kittens And Puppies

Because they're so much smaller, kittens are in more danger of being injured, of being killed by a young energetic dog, or by a predatory dog. A kitten will need to be kept separate from an especially energetic dog until she is fully-grown, and even then she should never be left alone with the dog. Usually, a well-socialized cat will be able to keep a puppy in its place, but some cats don't have enough confidence to do this. If you have an especially shy cat, you might need to keep her separated from your puppy until he matures enough to have more self-control.*

If you need help with an introduction, PLEASE ask for a RDR rep to help you, we will do so gladly!

VACCINATION PROTOCOLS

DHLPP VACCINATIONS

Given starting at 6-8 weeks of age and a booster given every 3-4 weeks until the animal is 16 weeks old. (note that this means some dogs will get a series of 4 shots, some will only be given one shot depending on when the series is started)

Boosters given 1 year after last vaccination at 16 weeks, then given every 3 years.

BORDATELLA

Not a part of the routine vaccinations given, but should be given whenever a dog will be boarding or in a training class or generally anytime the dog will be in an enclosed area with a lot of other dogs.

Boosters are needed yearly. (If dogs are frequently around many different dogs we recommend this one.)

RABIES

Required by law in all dogs. Given once when the dog is at least 14 weeks of age.

Boosters given 1 year after first vaccination at 16 weeks, then given every 3 years.

LYME DISEASE

Not a part of the routine vaccinations given. Lyme disease is not a big problem here in the Bay Area, but the vaccination should be given to some dogs that are used for dogs that will be traveling to areas where Lyme disease is a problem. First vaccination is given when the dog is at least 12 weeks old with a booster given 3-4 weeks later.

Boosters given yearly.



First Aid at a Glance

Poison Control Hot Line

(888) 232-8870

Car Accident

Move dog from roadway with blanket; seek veterinary aid

Shock

Calm the dog; keep him warm; seek immediate veterinary aid.

Nosebleed

Apply cold compress to the nose; apply pressure to any visible abrasion.

Bleeding

Apply pressure above the area; treat wound by applying cotton pack.

Heat stroke

Submerge dog in cold bath; cool down with fresh air, water. See Vet.

Frostbite/hypothermia

Warm the dog in warm bath, hot water bottle or electric blankets

Abrasions

Clean wound, wash out thoroughly with fresh water; Apply antiseptic.

Remember - an injured dog may attempt to bite a helping hand from fear and pain. Always muzzle the dog before trying to offer assistance

Burns

Place the affected area under cool water; use ice if only a small area is burnt.

Bee Stings / Insect Bites

Apply ice to relieve swelling; antihistamine dosed properly

Animal Bites

Clean any bleeding area; Apply pressure until bleeding subsides; go to vet.

Spider Bites

Use cold compress and a pressurized pack to inhibit venom's spreading.

Antifreeze poisoning

Immediately induce vomiting by using hydrogen peroxide

Fish Hooks

Removal best handled by vet; Hook must be cut to remove.

Snake bites

Pack ice around bite; contact vet quickly; identify snake for proper antivenom

Want to Read?

Fun stuff

Train Your Dog the Lazy Way, Andrea Arden: A fun book with great tips on teaching your dog manners in the home.

How to Talk to Your Dog, Jean Craighead George: Good for kids and adults. A short, fun and informative book about non-verbal communication human - dog style .

Denser Reading

The Culture Clash, Jean Donaldson: Considered THE definitive book on positive reinforcement-based dog training, SF/SPCA's Director of the Academy for Dog Trainers.

Don't Shoot the Dog, Karen Pryor: A clear and entertaining book for anyone who wants to understand or change behavior of an animal (or person) using positive reinforcement.

Help! This Animal is Driving Me Crazy!, Daniel Tortora: Learn how to apply Dr. Tortora's psychological techniques to retrain a wide range of behavioral problems, such as incessant barking or uncontrollable biting.

Puppies and Pit Bulls

The Perfect Puppy, Gwen Bailey: Emphasizes prevention over cures in order to turn your puppy into a well-adjusted, confident, happy adult dog.

American Pit Bull Terrier, F. Favorito: A Kennel Club Book. This is a comprehensive guide to owning and caring for your pit bull. Easy to read with lots of pictures.



PROBLEMS?

Some of the most common behavior problems seen in shelter/rescue dogs are:

- Jumpiness and mouthiness in initial meetings
- Social hyper-arousal
- Separation anxiety
- Fearfulness and/or shyness
- Aggression towards people and/or dogs
- Kennel or barrier displaying (barrier-related barking or aggression)
- Destructiveness
- Noisiness

If you experience serious behavioral problems RDR wants to help!

For specific behavioral problems UC Davis is strongly recommended for an evaluation. (See page 1)

For advice, please call our dedicated team of volunteers:

Pali: 415 756 8188. info@rocketdogrescue.org

Laura Beck: 510 205 3945 laura@rocketdogrescue.org

Lucia Oberste: 415 407 2559 lucia@rocketdogrescue.org

If we don't know the answer, we can stir you in the direction of somewhere that does.

Please keep in mind that these people are volunteers. Please be persistent. We do want to help but we all work fulltime. If you don't get through to one, try another!