



The Things No One Ever Told You About Being a Pet Owner (That Aren't Shots!)

When you first bring a dog home, everyone tells you about vaccines, flea meds, and heartworm prevention. That's the basics. But what about the stuff no one ever tells you—the unglamorous but hugely important little rituals that keep your pup healthy, happy, and out of the vet's office? Here are a few things most new (and even seasoned) dog parents don't realize they should be doing regularly.



Ear Checks (and Quick Cleans)

Dogs—especially floppy-eared breeds—are magnets for gunk, yeast, and bacteria. A once-a-week sniff and wipe can prevent painful infections. If you notice a funky smell, redness, or head shaking, that's your early warning sign.

Teeth & Gum Touch-Ups

We all know brushing is ideal, but few of us actually do it daily. At the very least, lift those lips once a week and look. Red gums, tartar, or stinky breath aren't just dental issues—they're whole-body health issues. A chew toy helps, but nothing replaces a quick check.

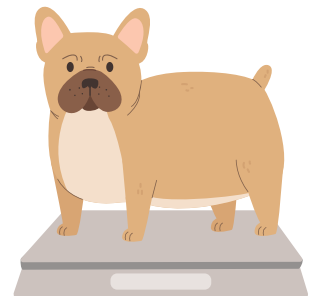


Paw Patrol

City dogs walk on hot pavement, suburban dogs step on fertilizers, and country dogs get stickers and burrs. A fast paw wipe after walks saves your carpets and your dog's skin. Bonus: You'll spot cracked pads or lodged debris before it becomes a limp.

Weight Watch

It sneaks up on you. A few extra treats, less exercise during the rainy season, and suddenly your dog is carrying five extra pounds. Run your hands over their ribcage weekly—you should feel ribs without pressing hard. Extra weight shortens lifespans more than most people realize.





The Things No One Ever Told You About Being a Pet Owner (That Aren't Shots!) Cont.

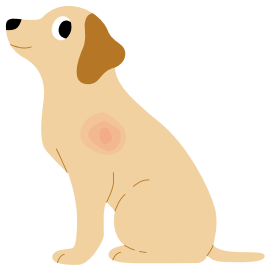
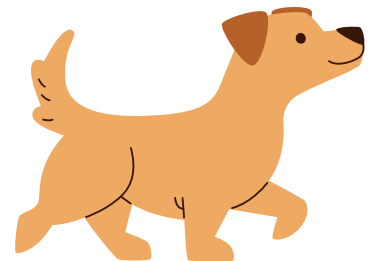


Collar and Tag Check

It sounds small, but dogs grow, lose weight, or fur mats under collars. Loosen, adjust, and check for rubbing once a month. And make sure that ID tag is still readable—you'd be surprised how many wear down to blank metal.

Enrichment Breaks

Dogs don't just need walks—they need to think. Rotate toys, hide treats, or teach a one-minute trick. Five minutes of brain work can calm an anxious dog faster than a 30-minute jog.



Lump and Bump Scan

While you're giving belly rubs, run your hands over your dog slowly. Most cancers are caught late because owners think a lump is "just a fatty thing." The rule: if it's new, growing, or weird—get it checked.

Nail Nudges

Overgrown nails aren't just noisy—they change how your dog walks, leading to joint issues. Even if you're afraid to clip, at least check length every week. If they're "clicking" on the floor, it's time.



These aren't flashy, Instagram-worthy moments. They're small, regular habits that make a huge difference over your dog's lifetime. No one tells you this at adoption, but now you know—the secret to a healthier, happier pup is in the little checks that add up.



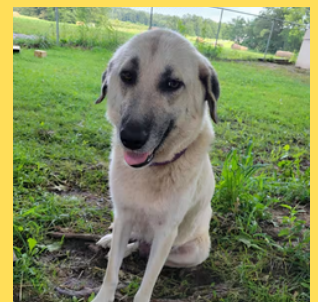
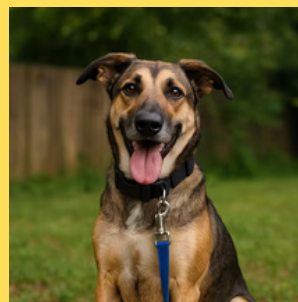


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September 2025

ADOPTION CORNER

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Share

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Sharing our adoptable dog posts makes a real difference! Every share on your social media helps us reach more potential families, bringing our dogs one step closer to their forever homes.



10 Ways to Know for Sure You're a Dog Addict

Let's face it: dog people are a special breed. If you catch yourself nodding "yes" to most of these, congrats—you're not just a dog owner, you're a full-on dog addict.

- **You have a high-pitched baby voice you use only with your dog.**
 - No one else hears it. Ever. But your pup gets the squeaky "Who's a good widdle babyyyy?" on repeat.
- **Your camera roll is 80% dog.**
 - Vacations, weddings, birthdays? Maybe. But mostly it's 47 slightly different angles of your dog sleeping.
- **You can't finish a movie if the dog in it looks sad.**
 - The human characters? Meh. But that one scene with the dog—forget it. Tears, tissues, emotional damage.
- **You spell words out loud so your dog won't get overexcited.**
 - "Want to go for a W-A-L-K?" You've turned into a CIA code talker in your own home.
- **Your dog has more toys than most toddlers.**
 - And yes, you do rotate them to "keep things fresh."
- **You plan your social calendar around the dog.**
 - Weekend trip? Only if there's a dog-friendly Airbnb. Dinner out? Better be a patio that takes pps.
- **You know your dog's poop schedule like clockwork.**
 - You can predict it down to the hour. It's practically a superpower.
- **You keep a blanket just for the dog.**
 - The "nice" one is for guests. The dog's one looks like it's been through war, but you'd never throw it out.
- **You narrate your dog's thoughts.**
 - In full voices. Sometimes accents. And yes, you're pretty sure your dog thinks you're hilarious.
- **You kiss your dog on the head more often than you text your friends back.**

And honestly? No regrets. And let's be real—if you're reading this newsletter, you're already in the club. Welcome, fellow dog addict.





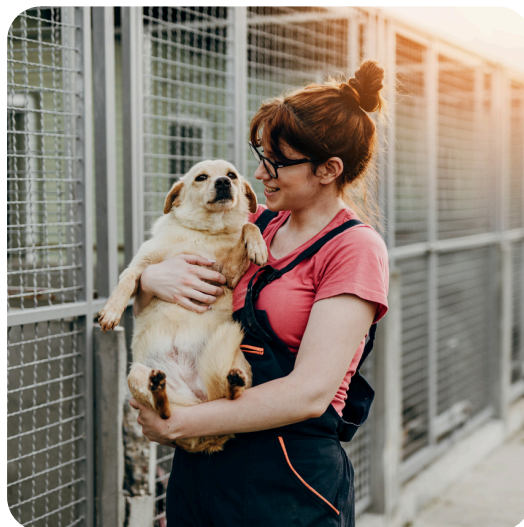
WHY DO RESCUES TRANSPORT DOGS INSTEAD OF JUST FINDING LOCAL HOMES?

At first glance, it seems like it should be simple. A dog needs a home, so why not just place them with a local family? Wouldn't that be easier than loading them into a van for a long trip—or even arranging to bring them in from another country?

It's a fair question, and the truth is: transport isn't about ease. It's about giving each dog their very best chance at a forever home.



In some areas of the country, shelters are overflowing. Stray dogs, abandoned litters, and owner surrenders come in faster than homes can be found. Meanwhile, in other parts of the U.S., there are more families looking to adopt than there are dogs available. Transport is what bridges that gap. A dog who might be overlooked—or worse, euthanized—in one community could be adopted within days in another.



The differences can even come down to local preferences. In the South, for example, shelters are full of large mixed-breed dogs, while adopters in the Northeast are often waiting for a dog just like that. In some cities, tiny dogs disappear from shelters almost instantly, while in others they sit unnoticed. Moving dogs to where the demand is helps everyone win.

There's also the issue of space. Even if there are good homes locally, shelters often run at or beyond capacity. Taking pressure off one shelter by moving dogs to another region gives staff and volunteers room to breathe, and gives dogs better odds of staying safe and healthy until adoption.





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WHY DO RESCUES TRANSPORT DOGS INSTEAD OF JUST FINDING LOCAL HOMES? CONT.

And sometimes, transport means crossing oceans. In many countries, dogs on the streets have almost no chance of ever being adopted. Bringing them here doesn't just change their fate—it saves their lives outright.



So yes, keeping adoptions local might sound easier. But “easier” doesn't help the dog who's been waiting for months without a single application. “Easier” doesn't give a second chance to the dogs living in places where adoption isn't even an option. Transport takes more work, more volunteers, more miles—but it's the work that turns “unwanted” into “family.” Because in the end, it's not about finding a home. It's about finding the right one, no matter the zip code.

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