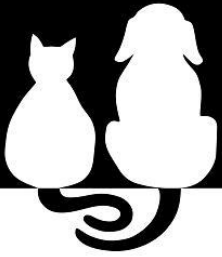


**BERKELEY
EAST BAY
HUMANE
SOCIETY**



RESPECT, PROTECT & CARE

CANINE ADOPTION PACKET

Important Information for Adopters of Dogs & Puppies

Dog's Name _____

Date _____

Adoption Counselor _____

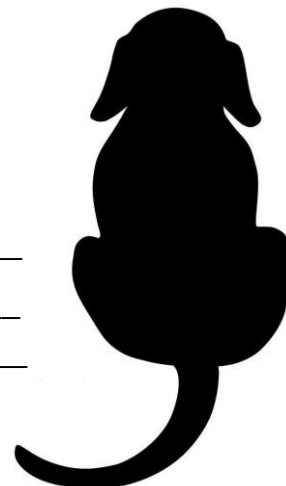


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ABOUT BEBHS

Thank you for adopting a dog from the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society!

Founded in 1927, BEBHS has provided loving homes to over 40,000 animals and is committed to continuing its efforts by guaranteeing a home to all healthy and treatable dogs and cats in our community. BEBHS rescues only local animals, and most arrive via our Shelter Transfer program which rescues animals from crowded municipal shelters. We are the proud recipients of the Maddie's Fund Lifesaving Award (www.maddiesfund.org) which awards grants to organizations that demonstrate an adoption guarantee for healthy and treatable pets.

BEBHS is a 501(c)3 private, non-profit corporation governed by a Board of Directors. The Society is not run by any statewide or national organization, and does not receive any government funding. We are supported by private donations and grants.

MISSION & VISION

The Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to placing homeless animals with committed caretakers; to developing healthy relationships between pets and people through education, training and counseling; and to promoting the humane treatment of all animals.

We envision a community that universally values animals and takes action to respect, protect and care for their needs.

ADOPTION QUESTIONS

BEBHS Adoption Center (510) 845-7735, x203, adoption@berkeleyhumane.org
BEBHS Canine Department (510) 845-7735, x212, dogs@berkeleyhumane.org

MEDICAL QUESTIONS

BEBHS Hospital (510) 845-3633

BEHAVIOR ADVICE

Free Behavior Advice Hotline (510) 845-7735, x 215

TRAINING

BEBHS K-9 College (510) 845-7735, x 215, training@berkeleyhumane.org

DONATIONS

BEBHS Development Department (510) 845-7735, x 204, development@berkeleyhumane.org

NEW DOG BASICS

COMMITMENT

Adopting a dog or puppy is a long term commitment! Dogs have an average lifespan of 10-12 years, but some dogs can live 15 years or more. Your commitment to being a responsible dog guardian for the duration of your dog's life includes:

- Providing good food, clean water, medical care, a safe and comfortable environment, appropriate exercise and training for your dog.
- Complying with state and local ordinances related to keeping a dog.
- Providing a collar and ID tag with your name and phone number(s) for your dog to wear at all times, and registering his microchip with your contact information.
- Addressing all behavior or health issues that may arise in a humane and timely manner.

EXPENSE

Your new dog will rely on you for everything – food, supplies, grooming, boarding when you're away, training, ongoing and preventative veterinary care. BEBHS estimates the yearly cost of caring for a dog after the first year to be anywhere from \$380-1200+.

SUPPLIES

There are a number of supplies you need you start your new dog off on the right foot. Some of these can be purchased at the BEBHS adoption center. Make sure you have:

- ✓ Collar, leash and ID tags for safety
- ✓ Appropriately sized crate for confinement and housetraining
- ✓ Training tool (gentle leader, martingale, easy-walk harness) for leash walking
- ✓ Dog food
- ✓ Soft treats for rewards and training
- ✓ Bowls for food and water
- ✓ Safe and durable toys for chew toy training and play. (Tennis balls should be used only for fetch, they can be damaging to teeth when chewed on for prolonged periods.)

FEEDING & NUTRITION

We will send you home with a starter bag of the food your dog has been eating at our shelter. Transition your dog gradually from this food to your new brand of food (start with a ratio of $\frac{3}{4}$ old food to $\frac{1}{4}$ new food and increase the amount of the new food daily) to avoid gastrointestinal upset.

The amount you feed your dog each day depends largely on the size of your dog, and on the type of food you feed. Most commercial dog foods have a feeding chart on the bag to help you determine the proper amount to feed each day. Break up your dog's daily portion into two (or three, for young puppies) daily meals to help establish his housetraining routine. Free feeding makes it nearly impossible to predict when your dog needs to eliminate, and can also cause gastrointestinal difficulties with larger breeds of dogs.

EXERCISE & STIMULATION

Regular walks and play sessions not only provide dogs with some exercise, but also help to meet social needs. Insufficient exercise and stimulation can contribute to problem behaviors including destructiveness, hyperactivity, attention-getting behaviors and even barking. Appropriate mental stimulation in the form of interactive toys, neighborhood walks, field trips, training sessions and constructive games are necessary to the mental well being of your companion as well as helpful in meeting daily exercise requirements.

Dogs with higher exercise requirements (young or very athletic dogs) would benefit from more rigorous activities, such as hiking, jogging, swimming, dog sports (agility, competition), or more frequent training and walking. Some dogs might benefit from play with other dogs – please see the section of this packet called “Dog Park Rules” for more information on safe dog park play.

SOCIALIZATION

It is important to expose your new dog or puppy to the sights, sounds, people and animals he will be expected to interact with in his new life. After he has had a chance to settle in and become comfortable with his family and home environment, take him out and introduce him to new experiences slowly. Be sure to praise and reward him, and make any new experience a positive one for him. BEBHS requires that all puppies adopted from our shelter sign up for a Puppy Kindergarten class. This class will cover crucial socialization information, and give your new pup opportunities to engage in appropriate play with other puppies.

RETURNS

It is our hope that your new dog will remain in your home for the rest of his life, and that any behavior issue will be worked on to the best of your ability. We are always available to help you with any training and behavior concerns you may have. If you are unable to keep your dog, the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society accepts returns of animals adopted from our shelter. **Please be advised that we do not refund any adoption fees.**

HEALTH & TRANSITION

SHELTER TO HOME TRANSITION

The transition from living in a shelter to living in a home will be a welcome one for your dog! Living in a shelter can be stressful. When she arrives in her new home, your dog will learn to relax and feel safe. Her immune system – now that she feels safe and relaxed – will let its guard down. As a result, viruses already present in your dog's system may cause her to become ill. Most likely, this will happen within the first two weeks after adoption.

BEBHS examines all dogs when they arrive to determine overall health. Any pre-existing or chronic medical conditions were explained to you when you adopted your dog. However, because the transition from shelter to home can cause dogs to fall ill, you should be on the lookout for the following symptoms, and contact a veterinarian for treatment:

- **Diarrhea** is a symptom of a wide variety of conditions. Diarrhea can be caused by stress or new food, but if your dog has diarrhea that persists for more than three days or has any traces of blood in it, please contact a veterinarian.
- **Sneezing, coughing, and discharge from nose and/or eyes** may be symptoms of an Upper Respiratory Infection. The first and most persistent symptoms will be sneezing and coughing. As the infection progresses, you may also see discharge from the nose and/or eyes. This discharge is likely to start off clear and then turn yellow or green.
- **Lethargy and loss of appetite** that persist for more than two days or are accompanied by diarrhea, sneezing, coughing and nasal or eye discharge could indicate an Upper Respiratory Infection.
- **Hair loss** is a symptom of a wide variety of conditions. The most common cause of hair loss in dogs who have lived in a shelter is ringworm. Ringworm is a fungus which causes round, circular, hairless and crusty lesions that can appear on any part of a dog's body. Ringworm can be contagious to humans, so it is important that you take your dog to the veterinarian right away if she is exhibiting any symptoms.

MEDICAL RECORDS

You will receive a copy of all of the medical history we have for your dog, including every procedure we have performed here at BEBHS. You should bring these records with you when you make your first exam appointment for your new dog, so that your veterinarian has a complete medical history. If you did not receive these records, please call the Shelter Manager at (510) 845-7735, x217.

You will also receive a vaccination history (read more about vaccinations on the next page), a Rabies certificate and tag for dogs over 4 months, any medications your dog is still on, and information on your new dog's microchip and how you can register the chip to your name.

FREE VETERINARY EXAM

When we complete your adoption paperwork, you will receive a certificate good for one complimentary exam for your new dog or puppy at a participating veterinary practice. This certificate is valid for 5 calendar days following the date of adoption...and we encourage you to use it right away, even if your new dog is not sick or showing any signs of illness. It is important to establish a relationship with a veterinarian from Day One – you and your vet will become partners in maintaining the lifelong good health of your dog.

POST-ADOPTION CARE

The BEBHS Hospital is a shelter-medicine only practice – we do not see public clients. However, we do provide limited care for certain shelter-related conditions during regular appointment hours for Z

calendar days following the date of adoption. This service is provided as a courtesy – BEBHS is not responsible for the medical costs of caring for adopted animals. The conditions we will treat at no cost to the adopter during this period are:

- Upper Respiratory Infection
- Kennel Cough
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Common infectious skin disorders
- Ear infections
- Suture reactions, seromas, incision complications
- Suture removals

If your new dog needs treatment for any of these conditions, please call the BEBHS Hospital at (510) 845-3633 to make an appointment. BEBHS cannot provide medical care for adopted animals over the weekends while there is no veterinarian on duty. Please try to anticipate needing an appointment, and avoid the weekends whenever possible. If an emergency situation arises over a weekend, you are responsible for procuring care with your regular veterinarian.

VACCINES & CARE

In order to maintain your dog's health and protect him from infectious disease, it's important to keep him current on his vaccinations. BEBHS vaccinates all dogs and puppies over 6 weeks upon arrival and on-schedule until they are adopted. This means that adopters of young puppies will often need to finish up their new puppy's schedule of booster shots after adoption. We provide a vaccination history for adopters so that they are able to continue the schedule. BEBHS vaccinates dogs that enter our shelter with the following vaccines:

- DA2PP: Protects against Distemper, Adenovirus-2, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus
- Bordatella (dogs over 16 weeks): Protects against Kennel Cough
- Rabies: (dogs over 16 weeks): Protects against Rabies virus

FLEA PREVENTION

Keep your dog on monthly topical flea prevention! Besides being an irritant for your dog, flea bites can cause hot spots and irritation. Some dogs have allergic reactions to fleas, which can cause hair loss and red, irritated skin. Fleas can also transmit other diseases such as tapeworms. Be sure to thoroughly read the instructions for the topical flea treatment you use.

HEARTWORM PREVENTION

Talk to your veterinarian about heartworm prevention – your vet will be able to make recommendations based on the risk to your individual dog.

TICKS, FOXTAILS AND BURRS

If your dog has a longer coat he is more likely to collect ticks, foxtails and burrs, but any dog can pick them up. Check your dog frequently, especially after walks and hikes in woody areas. Ticks can transmit disease, burrs irritate the skin, and foxtails can travel through your dog's skin and lodge themselves inside your pet. Make sure to check sensitive areas such as the paws, nose, ears, and around the eyes especially.

GROOMING

It is important to maintain appropriate grooming! Different dogs have different grooming needs. Dogs and puppies with short coats need less grooming but more skin care, while dogs with long fur need frequent brushing (2-4 times per week) to prevent mats and tangles. Dogs with hair instead of fur (such as Yorkies, Poodles and Schnauzers) require regular trips to professional groomers. Grooming also includes trimming your dog's nails every couple of weeks, cleaning ears regularly, and brushing teeth several times per week.

REGULAR EXAMS

Your dog should visit a veterinarian once a year for a routine exam and yearly vaccinations. Senior dogs may need to go to the vet more often to have additional procedures, such as regular dental cleanings or blood work.

MONITORING

In addition to monitoring your dog for coughing, sneezing, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, limping and areas of skin irritation or growth, we recommend paying close attention to signs that may be less obvious. Weight loss or gain, increased appetite, drinking or urination, reluctance to jump or be active, bad breath or drooling and thinning of hair or coat can all be signs of illness or injury. Please take your dog to a veterinarian if you notice these signs. It is much easier to treat illness early before it has progressed.

CRATE & CONFINEMENT TRAINING

CRATE TRAINING

Crate training your dog may take some time and work, but it is well worth the effort. When used properly, a crate will confine your dog to a safe, secure area when you are unable to watch her closely. Who is watching your dog while you are at work, school, out running errands, in the shower, cooking dinner, etc.? While she is confined to her crate, you can be absolutely sure that your dog is NOT relieving herself on the carpet, chewing your belongings, digging in the yard...or doing a variety of other "jobs" that you don't want her to do!

Once you crate train your dog and use the crate to get through the transitional period, you don't have to use it forever. A crate is a wonderful tool to use to limit your dog's ability to get into trouble while she is adjusting to your home and your rules. Once she knows the rules, it is also a great tool to use during travel or for confinement during activities that might overwhelm her (disruptive home renovations, large dinner parties, or noisy playdates with neighborhood children).

Size & Time: A crate for an adult dog should be large enough for her to comfortably stand up, turn around and lay down in. Crates come in a variety of durable materials, including hard plastic and wire. Using the crate, you can confine your new dog and ensure her safety and well-being for up to 5 hours. Small dogs and puppies under six months of age aren't able to control themselves for quite as long as an adult dog, so you should make arrangements to come home or have a friend stop by to give them a potty break. Very young puppies (under three months of age) can be crate trained, but they require more frequent potty breaks to allow for their tiny bladders. A good rule of thumb for determining the maximum time for young puppies is Age in Months + 2 hours.

How to Crate Train: Begin to get your new dog used to the crate right away. Put it in an area of your home where the family spends a lot of time, such as the living room. Put a soft towel or blanket inside. Bring her over to the open crate on leash, and attempt to lure her inside with some high value treats or a toy. Don't force her to enter! If she doesn't want to go all the way in at first, keep tossing treats or toys inside until she is willing to enter on her own.

Your dog's experiences with the crate should be all positive, so remember to reward her for staying inside the crate quietly. You can close the door to confine her, and continue to pass her treats through the bars of the crate while she remains calm and quiet. You can also give her appropriate chew materials (sturdy rubber toys or bones that can't break down for her to choke on) while she's in her crate. Covering the crate with a blanket or towel (especially at night time) might also help your dog view her crate as a safe, cozy, den-like retreat.

TETHER TRAINING

In combination with crate training, tether training can be a wonderful way to integrate your new dog into your home. Keeping your dog on a 4-6 foot leash in the house at all times for the first two weeks or so (whenever she's not in the crate) guarantees that she will not be allowed out of your sight until she has learned the rules of your house and proper indoor behavior.

Tether training allows your dog the opportunity to be part of your daily routine while confining her to the area allowed by the leash you are holding, which helps to facilitate the bonding process. If your new dog exhibits any undesirable behaviors (housebreaking mistakes, chewing inappropriate objects, jumping on furniture, etc), you are at the other end of the leash, ready to interrupt the behavior as it happens (and hopefully before!) and redirect her to the proper behavior.

TIE-DOWN TRAINING

You can use your tether as a temporary tie-down by tying your end to a secure surface such as a heavy coffee table. Tie-down training can alternate with crate training when you are home. Please do not leave your dog unattended on a tie-down! For more information on tie-down training, please visit the Behavior & Training Resources section on www.berkeleyhumane.org.

HOUSETRAINING 101

Most dogs in shelters are not fully housetrained, and the idea of housetraining an adult dog from scratch can be daunting. In reality, correct use of the crate and tether will drastically cut down on accidents your dog is able to have in your home. Here are some other useful tips to get you and your dog on the right track:

Dog Proof: If you have to work, and there is no one else who can let your dog out, please don't leave your dog in a crate all day. Set up a dog-safe room (bathrooms and laundry rooms with closing doors are great places for this) where there are no items your dog can harm himself on or destroy. Preferably, this room will have an easy-to-clean floor. Small spaces are less effective for housebreaking than crates are, so try to work out a solution with the crate if possible.

Take your dog out: Despite popular belief, dogs do not inherently know that "outside" = potty area. In fact, dogs who have had no real introduction to housetraining before will often spend a lot of time poking around, sniffing and exploring instead of using the opportunity to go potty. Accompanying your dog on his bathroom breaks (on leash) will allow you to make certain that he is relieving himself.

Pick a spot: Choose one spot in your backyard (or outside your door, if you don't have a yard) to designate as the "bathroom spot." Continually take your dog to this spot and give him the chance to go potty. If he is able to smell his scent in this area, he is more likely to potty there in the future.

Reward: When your dog does go to the bathroom in this area, reinforce this behavior by giving him a high value reward – praise, treats, or a favorite toy. This will teach your dog that going to the bathroom outside is a lot of fun, and he is more likely to repeat this behavior in the future. On the opposite end of the spectrum, when he has an accident in the house, IGNORE IT. Dogs cannot make the connection between what happened just now, and what happened five seconds ago. Yelling, swatting, or other punishments will just confuse your dog and make him afraid to go to the bathroom in front of you (which is a step backwards for house training). Dogs who have been punished for going to the bathroom in the house will frequently hide their business in remote places inside the house to avoid punishment.

Good timing: Take your new dog out frequently, and make sure to give him potty breaks after play sessions, naps, and meals. These are times when a dog's need to "go" are stimulated. Also, be sure to feed your dog at regular times. The more on-schedule a dog's feedings are, the more reliable his "output" times will be!

BE CONSISTENT. We can't say this enough! The more consistent you are able to be, the more quickly your dog will learn. Stick with your training plan for housebreaking, and don't be too anxious to let him off the leash in the house – wait until good habits are established and he is going potty outside on a regular basis.

Recommended Reading: [Way To Go!](#) by Karen London & Patricia McConnell. Available online.

THE FIRST 24 HOURS

SUPPLIES

After you leave BEBHS with your new dog, you will need to make a stop at a pet supply store to purchase all the supplies you will need. Most pet stores allow you to bring your (leashed) dog in while you shop, which can be very useful when picking out things needing proper sizing, such as collars and crates. However, because there may be other dogs in the store (and you likely haven't experienced your new dog's interactions with other animals) it is probably best to leave your dog in the car with another member of your household while you shop.

ARRIVING HOME

When you arrive home, the first thing you want to do is take your dog to his "potty spot" to give him a chance to relieve himself. (Make sure to give him a reward when he does this!)

Bring your dog inside (still on leash!) and give him a quiet tour of his new home. Take him to all of the spots he'll need to know – water bowl, bed, toy basket. Look out for things that he takes an interest in that you didn't anticipate him getting into. Children's toys, electrical cords, open toilet bowls and trash cans without tops are all exciting temptations for dogs who aren't used to living in a home. You may need to do more dog-proofing once this tour is over!

SETTLING DOWN

The first day should be a pretty low-key one for your dog. He is probably feeling confused and a little overwhelmed by all the changes. You can spend the rest of your first day hanging out quietly in front of the TV or with a book, cuddling, or playing in the house or yard. Although it is tempting to invite friends over to meet your new dog, try to keep things quiet and limit introductions to household members only for the first couple of days.

RULES

As a household, decide on fair, firm "house rules" for your new dog and be sure to enforce those rules consistently from the get-go. If you don't want your dog to jump up on your couch or bed, make sure he isn't allowed on any furniture from the very beginning.

EARLY HOUSETRAINING

In addition to the tips offered earlier in this packet, don't be surprised if your dog doesn't pee or poop very much in the first 24 hours. This is very normal, and a result of the sudden change of environment. Keep taking him out and giving him opportunities to go, and make sure to keep an eye on him at all times so he doesn't have the chance to have an accident indoors.

DINNER

It is common for dogs to exhibit a lack of appetite during their first day at home. Again, this is due to stress and usually not to illness or picky eating habits. Continue to offer the same food to your dog, leaving his bowl down for 10-15 minutes, until he is hungry.

BEDTIME

We recommend that you have your dog sleep in the crate at night for the first couple of weeks. This will enforce a regular routine, and ensure that your dog is not getting into trouble in the middle of the night! You can put the crate in your bedroom so he doesn't feel isolated.

Before bedtime, give your dog one last opportunity to go potty outdoors in his spot. Take him indoors, put him in the crate, and shut the door for the night. Some dogs (especially puppies and adolescent

dogs) might cry at first. Ignoring these noises will teach your dog that bedtime is bedtime, and that whining doesn't get him let out of the crate.

If you have a puppy under six months, expect to be awakened during the night for a potty break. Puppies aren't able to hold their tiny bladders for very long, so it is important to take them out when they need to go. When you do this, be the least exciting "you" that you can possibly be! A quick potty break is all he needs, then back in the crate. Playing or lots of attention during this nighttime break will reinforce his needing to get up – and you'll never get any rest.

FIRST MORNING

In the morning, leash up your dog and take him outside to go potty. If you can tether your dog as you get ready for your day, do that. If not, place him on a tie-down or back in the crate while you go about your morning routine. Once you're ready, offer your dog breakfast. Give him another chance to go potty about 15 minutes after he's finished eating.

If you're going to be out for most of the day (at work or school), you will need to provide some kind of exercise and stimulation for your dog before you go. Depending on the energy level of your dog, this could mean a walk around your neighborhood, a game of fetch, or a brisk jog. Be aware that you may have to get up earlier than usual to accommodate your new family member's needs.

After exercise, choose a proper method of confinement (crate for up to 5 hours, dog-proofed room for more than that) and confine your dog with some sturdy chew toys that he can't destroy or ingest.

COMING HOME

The first thing you should do when you arrive home is to put your dog on leash and take him outside to go potty. Try to keep your arrivals (and departures!) low-key so your dog doesn't get too worked up. If you are only home for lunch, give him an opportunity to stretch his legs with a quick romp in the yard, and give him some attention before confining him again. If you are home for the day, give him another exercise session!

SUPPORT

The adoption staff at the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society is here to help you and your dog settle into your new life together. We are here to address any questions or concerns you have, and are happy to serve as your support system throughout your dog's life. For questions on recent adoptions, please call the Adoption Center at (510) 845-7735, x203. BEBHS also offers a free Behavior Advice Hotline that will advise on any behavioral issue and can be reached at (510) 845-7735, x215.

TRAINING

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

Positive reinforcement training means reinforcing your dog's behavior by rewarding your dog (with praise, treats, attention, or a favorite toy) immediately after she does something you want her to do. Dogs are creatures of opportunity – they do what works for **them**. Your dog is likely to repeat behaviors that have worked to yield nice rewards, and less likely to repeat behaviors that have been ignored/not worked for them in the past. Be sure that the rewards come from YOU, for the things you want your new dog to do!

THE PROBLEM WITH PUNISHMENT

The main problem with punishment is that while it may teach your dog what you don't want her to do, it doesn't teach your dog what you *do* want her to do. Punishment (especially physical punishment like swatting with a newspaper or flicking a dog's nose) will scare your new dog. And, unless it occurs within seconds of "bad" behavior, your dog just isn't capable of linking the punishment to the behavior you don't like.

TRAINING

Structured training classes are a great way to bond with your new dog, teach her some basic obedience, and learn how to communicate effectively with your new family member. The Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society's K9 College offers excellent, positive-reinforcement based puppy and dog training at affordable prices and during a variety of timeslots. The entire family is welcome to attend and participate! Because you and your new dog can both benefit greatly from obedience classes, we highly recommend (and in some cases, require!) signing up for classes right away.

PRACTICING GOOD LEADERSHIP

BEBHS believes that leadership is about teaching your dog her place as a well-mannered member of the family. To your new dog, whoever controls the resources is a leader. Teaching your dog to "sit", "watch", or some other small behavior before you give her something good (put her food bowl down, release her from her crate, play a game of fetch, put her leash on for a walk) will help teach her to behave better, trust you, and earn her rewards.

This simple program (sometimes called "Nothing in Life is Free" or "No Such Thing as a Free Lunch") will help reinforce the bond between you and your new dog, and give her opportunities to practice important behaviors in different situations. It also has added benefits for shy or anxious dogs, who will build confidence by learning a method of "communication" they can use to help control what happens to them. For pushy dogs who always seem to be desperate for attention, it allows you to use that attention as an opportunity to get them to calm down and wait for attention.

LEADERSHIP, NOT "DOMINANCE"

A lot of attention lately has been given to "dominance theory" - an out-dated and disproved theory based on studies of wolf packs in captivity. **Wolf pack hierarchy is not relevant to domestic dogs and their relationships with humans.** Behavior issues are usually the result of poor training and management, and not the result of a dog trying to assert dominance. Techniques used to "assert dominance" over dogs (such as pinning dogs to the ground, neck pinching, "alpha rolling," "hissing," or using physical force to push a dog to do something they are unwilling or afraid to do) will only cause dogs to become anxious and fearful of their owner.

By actively reinforcing good behavior and providing consistent, positive leadership, you will begin to develop a healthy, trusting relationship with your new dog.

TRAINING RESOURCES

BEBHS provides several training resources, aside from K9 College classes. Our canine staff is very knowledgeable and happy to offer suggestions on the behavior of recently adopted dogs. We also offer a free behavior advice line for the public. Both of these numbers can be found at the beginning of this packet.

In addition, you can access articles on dog behavior and training on our website at www.berkeleyhumane.org in the Behavior & Training Resources section.

Our Behavior & Training Manager, Nancy Frensley CAP2, CPDT is a guest author for www.dogbehaviorblog.com, and contributes monthly articles about the behavior and training of shelter and newly adopted dogs.

PREVENTING SEPARATION ANXIETY

PREVENTING SEPARATION ISSUES

Dogs evolved as companions to people and most of them seem to enjoy this role very much! It is natural for dogs to experience varying levels of stress and anxiety when separated from a person they are attached to. Even if your new dog does not have separation anxiety (the majority of dogs adopted from shelters do not), it is important to help your dog find a healthy balance between enjoying your companionship and being sufficiently independent to tolerate being alone for periods of time. Below are some suggestions for preventing separation issues from the very beginning:

- ✓ Teach your dog that his confinement “spot” is a good place where good things happen. The “spot” is his confinement area (crate for short-term, safe room for long-term) where he will be left while you’re gone. Take him to this spot often and give him lots of happy praise and treats while he’s in there.
- ✓ Get your dog used to the idea that you leaving is a regular, normal, and safe occurrence. Try to leave your dog alone for several short trips before leaving him for your first long stretch. This can begin with crating him and taking a walk to your mailbox or next door to visit with a neighbor.
- ✓ To avoid associating your leaving routine with long absences, you can fake your dog out! Practice picking up your keys, putting on your coat, putting your bag over your shoulder – and then sitting on the couch to read.
- ✓ Avoid long, drawn-out farewells or goodbyes. Keep your arrivals and departures low-key. If you have a dog with an especially clingy personality, ignore your dog for 5-10 minutes before departures and after arrivals.
- ✓ Start to use the crate and/or tie-down right away when you are home. This will teach your dog that he is still safe, even when he is not right by your side.
- ✓ As difficult as this is to do with a new dog, don’t shower him with constant attention when you’re home. Give him some structured activities and some attention, but balance that with time spent by himself chewing or otherwise occupying himself.
- ✓ Because panic responses usually occur very soon after you have left, give your dog a Kong® or other appropriate things to chew on before you leave. Chewing releases anxiety in dogs, and he may be so distracted by his delicious chewie that he will “forget” to miss you.
- ✓ Establish a “safety cue” with your new dog. Consistently turn on the radio to a classical music station (which is calming!), give a specific chew toy or say a specific word before your initial short trips (even those trips to the mail box or neighbor’s house)...and then return home. Over time, your dog will learn that the radio/toy/word means that you are eventually coming home.

WHAT IS SEPARATION ANXIETY?

Separation anxiety in dogs is a condition involving the display of panic symptoms in response to being left alone. This panic response might manifest itself in destructive behavior, excessive vocalization, escape attempts, inappropriate elimination, or other signs of extreme panic. We aren’t sure why or how some dogs develop separation anxiety while others don’t, but some common scenarios involve:

- Dogs who have not previously spent much time alone.
- Dogs who were abandoned at critical points in their development.
- Dogs who were re-located to an isolated garage or yards.

In addition, some newly-adopted dogs become immediately attached to/overly reliant on their new owners and become very insecure when their person leaves them alone. Occasionally, this is a result of losing a previous home and person to which he was attached.

Although BEBHS attempts to discover as much of a dog's personality as possible before he is put up for adoption, we have no way of knowing how a dog is going to behave in the home. Some dogs adjust quickly, while other dogs (even if they appear stable in the shelter) may demonstrate anxiety in a new home.

IF YOUR DOG HAS SEPARATION ANXIETY

If your dog has true separation anxiety, he will probably do some of the following:

- Get very worked up and anxious when you are preparing to leave the house. Things like picking up your car keys or putting on your coat will trigger anxious behavior.
- Engage in inappropriate behavior ONLY when you are separated. Behaviors like urinating, defecating or destructive behavior (particularly near the door or windows) while you are gone are signs of separation anxiety.
 - Follow you everywhere and become distressed if he can't be near you.
 - Act "over the top" with his greetings when you come home. Dogs with separation anxiety will usually take awhile to calm down after such greetings.

If your dog is exhibiting signs of separation anxiety:

- ✓ Call BEBHS for an appointment with the Behavior Department. Separation anxiety can be a very stressful situation for both owner and dog, but most cases can improve with time and effort.
- ✓ The suggestions above for preventing separation issues may also help desensitize your dog to staying alone. Be aware of over-crating your dog, as this may add to his anxiety.
- ✓ NEVER, EVER punish your dog for exhibiting any signs of separation anxiety. Your dog will not understand why he is being punished. Separation anxiety is a panic response – not bad behavior.
- ✓ Do not get a second dog to "keep your dog company." Separation anxiety is about your dog's response to separation from you, and adding another dog to the mix is likely to result in two anxious dogs.
- ✓ Recommended Reading: [I'll Be Home Soon](#) by Patricia McConnell. Available online.

MULTI-DOG HOUSEHOLD

Having more than one dog is a wonderful experience. Dogs are highly social creatures, and many of them really enjoy canine companionship when they are living with a well-matched dog. However, introducing a new dog into your home can feel overwhelming by itself, let alone when you already have one or more dogs at home!

Dogs that live in groups naturally establish a social structure. This structure serves to maintain order, reduce conflict and promote cooperation among group members. Successful management of a multi-dog household includes keeping all members safe during the adjustment period and maintaining good interactions and a healthy relationship between your dogs. Here are some tips for making this happen:

- ♥ Use confinement (crate and tether) at first, to allow your resident dog time to gradually adjust to the presence of a new dog in their household.

- ♥ Always be aware of the body language of your dogs during all interactions, but especially these early ones. Information on reading dog body language can be found in this packet. Dogs give each other signals all the time. If their body language indicates that one dog is irritating the other or that they are beginning to get too charged up during play, separate them to allow time to cool off and calm down.

- ♥ Feed your dogs separately to avoid squabbles over food, and supervise feedings at first.

- ♥ Pick up any high value toys or objects (like pig's ears, rawhides, NylaBones or other chewies) to avoid conflict. Some guarding of valuable resources between dogs is normal (food is a resource that's valued very highly by canines), but should be avoided whenever possible.

- ♥ Spend a sufficient amount of time with your dogs, together and separately. Just like humans need time away from their significant others or families, dogs in a family need to spend some time separate, too. Spending one-on-one time with each of your dogs will help to strengthen their bonds with you, and spending time together will allow them opportunities to learn how to co-exist peacefully.

- ♥ Do not leave your dogs alone unsupervised! It is important that you monitor all interactions for the first several weeks. Confine one (or both) of your dogs whenever you cannot supervise them, until you are 100% comfortable that there will be no fights when you are not present to manage and intervene.

- ♥ Brush up on your resident dog's obedience training! And, of course, spend time training your new dog. Good obedience will make management of your multi-dog household much, much easier.

Recommended Reading: [Feeling Outnumbered?](#) by Patricia McConnell. Available online.

INTRODUCING DOGS & CATS

If you have a cat (or multiple cats) at home, it is important to have realistic expectations about the relationship your cat(s) will develop with your new dog. Very few dog-cat pairs end up being best friends, or even interacting on a regular basis. Many more are able to live side-by-side peacefully with very little interaction between them.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CATS AND DOGS

Dogs are socially motivated creatures. They crave interaction with people, and social status is very important to them. Cats, on the other hand, are environmentally motivated, territorial creatures. Physical space and territory are very important to them, and having a canine newcomer in their territory will usually cause some stress.

It is very important to remember that dogs are predatory animals, and many dogs still have the drive to chase, catch and kill prey animals. Whether or not your new dog considers your cat a prey animal will depend on the size difference between them, any previous socialization to cats, and your dog's individual genetic makeup. Watch for signs of predatory behavior from your dog. These signs could include staring, stalking low to the ground, straining on the leash or high pitched whining. If you think your dog is exhibiting predatory behavior towards your cat, please separate the animals and call the Behavior Advice Line at (510) 845-7735 ext 22.

SEPARATION

To begin with, keep your resident cat(s) totally separate from your new dog. Because a cat is more independent and easier to confine than the highly social dog, it usually works out best to confine your cat to a room or area of the house where the dog cannot go. Keep the animals totally separate for a period of a couple weeks to encourage a slow transition and avoid stress. During this period, you can let the animals sniff each other under the door or let them smell each other's bedding. You can take advantage of this opportunity to teach your new dog to "leave it."

INTRODUCTION

When you decide to let the cat(s) out of their confinement area, let them come out and explore while your new dog is confined in the crate or on the leash. Go at your cat's pace and don't force interactions. Reward your new dog with praise and food treats for calm behavior around the cat. After several calm interactions, your pets will begin to be relaxed around each other. Once you are comfortable, you can let go of your dog's leash and let it drag (just in case). Full introductions of a new dog and resident cat can take weeks or even months.

DOG/CAT RULES

Always confine your animals properly when you are unable to supervise. Not only is it unsafe to leave a new dog alone with a cat, but confining the dog to his crate or the animals to separate rooms allows your cat to roam her territory and safely investigate the newcomer.

Even after many positive interactions where your cat and dog seem comfortable with each other, always provide a safe, secure space where your cat can get away from the dog. Try gating off one room with a baby gate that your dog can't jump over, or providing high places for your cat to rest.

DOGS & CHILDREN

BENEFITS

Living with a dog can be wonderful for many children. Growing up with a dog can boost a child's self esteem and help them learn how to be responsible. Children and dogs can be a great match, but will not necessarily have a wonderful relationship right from the start. Parents must be committed to teaching dogs *and* children acceptable behavior. Setting appropriate limits for all family members is the first step towards a harmonious relationship between canine and child.

PRECAUTIONS

Don't let your child hug your dog around the neck. Young children almost always intend for this friendly human gesture to translate equally to canines, but unfortunately, dogs rarely interpret this as affection. Rather, it is often seen as a threat to their own safety and they may react accordingly with a growl or snarl. Teach your child to pet your dog gently underneath the dog's chin instead of reaching over or around her head.

Don't stare! Staring at dogs or looking directly into her eyes for prolonged periods of time is considered a threatening gesture. Although children are often tempted to gaze into their best (canine) friend's eyes, teach them to show their affection in other less intimidating ways.

Encourage safe, pleasant exchanges. Children, especially those who have had previous unpleasant experiences with dogs, tend to become nervous and anxious when a dog tries to take a treat or toy from their hand. This often causes a child to jerk his hand away at the last second and further excite or inadvertently "tease" the dog, encouraging her to jump up or lunge to take the object. Teach your child to offer treats with a flat, open palm, and always in the presence of a responsible adult.

Let sleeping dogs lie. Never allow your child to wake your dog, or to play around your sleeping dog. When a dog is startled out of her sleep by touch or sudden noise, she will often become surprised or scared and may attempt to snap or bite in an effort to defend herself. Teach your children that your dog's sleeping space is her own, and that she is not to be disturbed while she is resting.

PLAYTIME

Watch body language. Young children naturally move with quick, jerky movements, have high-pitched voices and often run, rather than walk. All of these behaviors somewhat resemble the behaviors of prey animals. Almost all of a dog's play behaviors are based on predatory behavior! Consequently, your dog may respond to your child's behavior by chasing him, nipping at his heels, jumping up at him or even trying to knock him down. Teach your child to play quietly around your new dog until she becomes more comfortable and calm.

Discourage rough play...among all family members. Many people love to wrestle and play roughly with their dogs. While this type of play is certainly fun, it is important to NEVER encourage your dog to nip, mouth, paw and tug when there are children in your household that she must learn interact with. Consistency is extremely important to dogs. If your new dog is led to believe that this type of rough play is appropriate, she may continue these rough play behaviors with your young children and inadvertently injure them by mouthing, pawing and tugging too roughly.

POSSESSIONS

Keep things out of reach. Your new dog does not understand the difference between her toys and those belonging to your child until you teach him. To prevent your new dog mistaking your child's favorite toy as one of her own, teach your children to pick up their belongings and keep them out of reach of the dog.

Resource guarding. Dogs can be possessive about their food, toys and space. Although the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society makes every effort to match families with children to appropriate dogs with no known resource guarding problems, it is always better to take proper precautions when it comes to children. Teach your children to respect your dog's space while she is chewing, eating and napping. Even better, families with young children should confine their dogs to another room or a crate during feeding or chewing time. While it is normal for a dog to growl or snap to protect high value items, it is not acceptable behavior and should be avoided at all costs.

SUPERVISE, SUPERVISE, SUPERVISE

Visiting children. Even if your children are remarkably well behaved around your new dog, consider the possibility that underage visitors to your home may not know the rules. Visiting children will most likely be thrilled and excited to interact with your dog, but make sure all interactions are closely monitored and that all handling is appropriate. If you are uncomfortable, or feel that your dog is overwhelmed by the situation, confine her appropriately in a quiet area where she cannot be disturbed.

Never leave your children unattended with your new dog. Keep in mind that you do NOT know your new dog well enough to trust her in every circumstance, especially around young children who may not always be appropriate in their interactions. Confine your dog properly when you are unable to supervise, and let your children know that they are not allowed to interact with the dog when you are not present. In doing so, you are ensuring that every interaction between your child and your dog is positive, supervised and safe.

UNDERSTANDING DOG BODY LANGUAGE

Domestic dogs use a system of body language, facial expressions, and vocalizations to communicate with one another. Knowing how to read these signals and expressions is very useful for dog guardians, as it helps us to understand our dog's feelings and reactions to stimuli, as well as gauge the emotional state of any dogs he may socialize with.

Below is a summary of different canine body parts and what they convey. When looking at your dog's body language, it's important to look at the whole picture. Your dog's whole body and all of its parts work together to communicate. In general, a dog whose body position reads as "low," "back," or "down" is communicating caution, uncertainty or fear; while a dog whose body reads as "up," "forward," or "high" is communicating arousal, excitement or confidence.

EARS

Dog ears come in a huge variety of shapes and sizes, and some types of ears are harder to read than others. Long, droopy ears (like those found on a Basset Hound) or ears that have been cropped are notoriously hard to read. Others, such as short, floppy, or prick ears make it easier to detect their position. Regardless of shape, all dog ears are capable of pivoting into different positions.

Ears held forward and high on the head indicate interest or confidence, which ears that are tilted backwards indicate worry or submission. Sometimes, upon greeting a person or dog, your dog's ears might flick backwards and then return to the normal position. A dog that is very worried or fearful will often pin his ears back and keep them that way.

EYES

Relaxed dogs have relaxed eyes, with small pupils at the center. Dilated pupils are a signal that your dog is either very aroused, or incredibly frightened. Staring is always a challenge. The intent can be predatory, if the stare is aimed at a small animal.

Another thing to look for in the eyes is the flashing of the white of a dog's eye, usually referred to as "whale eye" by dog trainers. While a relaxed dog will turn his head to look at something, a frightened dog will stiffen his body and widen his eyes, enabling you to see the white of his eye.

FUR

A dog in a state of arousal or distress might raise up the fur on his shoulders or at the base of his tail. This raised fur is commonly known as "hackles." Different dogs raise their hackles for different reasons, and they can be likened to goose bumps or hair "standing on end" in humans. Even if you cannot figure out exactly what your dog is feeling when he raises his hackles, it is usually indicative of a heightened emotional state.

MOUTH

A relaxed dog usually has a relaxed, loose mouth. He may be "smiling" with his mouth open. A cautious or scared canine might pull his lips taught, yawn or lick his lips quickly (both yawning and lip licking are "calming signals"; see below for more information).

Of course, everyone notices a dog's mouth when he pulls his lips back in a growl or bares his teeth in a snarl. Growls and snarls are different degrees of warning that a dog will give before he bites. If your new dog growls or snarls at a member of your household, please call us.

TAIL

We have all been taught that a wagging tail on a dog means “friendly.” Depending on what the wagging looks like, this may not be the case! A high and stiff wagging tail (that sometimes appears to be wagging from the middle of the tail) is indicative of high arousal, and is not a friendly greeting. A wide, sweeping or circular tail wag is a calm and happy greeting. A low wag, which may reveal a slightly more uncertain canine, is still usually a friendly gesture.

A tucked tail, especially one that tucks all the way under a dog and touches his belly, is a sign of fear or discomfort.

Dogs with no tails, very short tails, or tails that curl over their backs (like those found on the Akita, the Lhasa Apso and the Chow Chow) are much harder to read. If your dog has a tail like this, it is even more important that you pay close attention to body language communicated with his other body parts.

CALMING SIGNALS

“Calming signals” are signals that dogs give to humans and other dogs to denote stress and avoid conflict. They include things like turning away, play bowing, walking in a curve, shaking it off (like a wet dog shakes off water), yawning, and lip licking. Most calming signals happen very quickly.

DOG PARK RULES

If you live in an urban area, or have very little yard space to call your own, chances are you will think of taking your new dog to a dog park for some exercise. These fenced parks for dogs to play and interact with one another are a popular destination for dog guardians. However, since not all dogs are suitable for dog park play, please carefully consider whether going to a dog park will be a fun experience or a scary one for your new dog.

GOOD DOG PARK CANDIDATES

Because dog parks are public, anyone can bring any dog there for some exercise. This means that although there will undoubtedly be dogs in the park who are appropriately social and well-behaved, there will also be untrained, rude, aggressive or fearful dogs waiting to interact with your dog.

Good dog park candidates are affable, trained dogs who *enjoy* playing with other dogs and try their hardest to avoid confrontation. They are not a danger to anyone else in the park and they are flexible in play style. Dogs who are untrained, aggressive, rude, or pushy (including pushy play styles such as pinning and wrestling, often used by pit bulls and Boxers among other types of large dogs) are likely to irritate other dogs and cause a fight. These dogs do not belong in dog parks.

Note about pit bulls: Dog aggression is a possibility in every breed, and is in no way limited to pit bulls. Pit bull dog tolerance levels range from very social, to tolerant, to selective, to aggressive. Fights happen occasionally among many in dog parks, due to the heightened state of arousal and conflicting play styles of dogs in the park. BEBHS recommends that new pit bull owners NEVER take their adult pit bulls to dog parks. Even if your pit bull will not start a fight, a pit bull will likely not back down from the challenge. Instead of dog parks, try organizing small play groups of compatible, familiar dogs to socialize with your dog-social, dog-tolerant or dog-selective pit bull.

Dogs who are very shy will often be overwhelmed by the number of dogs and different play styles in the park (not to mention the rude or pushy dogs mentioned above) and will feel the need to defend themselves. Don't put your shy dog in this situation. Likewise, small dogs are often targeted by larger dogs in dog parks because they resemble prey animals. The size difference between dogs should always be taken into account to preserve the safety of all involved, and this is impossible to manage in a dog park.

RULES

If you have determined that your dog may be a good candidate and will enjoy dog park play, here are some rules to remember:

- Do not take your brand new dog to the dog park! You need some time together to establish a bond, get to know one another, practice obedience training, and establish a *reliable recall* (where your dog reliably returns to you when she is called). Until you do this, you will have no way to ensure that your dog will come back.
- First visit (and as many others as you can manage) should occur at off-peak times so that there are fewer dogs around and therefore, fewer opportunities for scuffles.
- Keep your dog on a 20-30' long line (a very long leash) for the first visit and however many subsequent visits it takes to teach her boundaries.
- Be careful when entering. Dogs tend to cluster around the entrance when a new dog comes in, which can be overwhelming and very scary to your dog.

- Never, ever leave your dog unattended or ignored in the dog park. Dog parks are not babysitters. Pay attention and be ready to intervene if necessary.
- Keep moving and walking around so that your dog remains aware of your presence.
- If your dog is small, seek out a park with a separate area for small dogs.
- If your dog is pushy or rude, remove her from the dog park immediately.
- Pay attention to your dog's body language. If she seems uncomfortable or worried, she is not enjoying herself.

IF YOUR DOG IS NOT A DOG PARK CANDIDATE

There are perfectly acceptable ways to exercise and socialize your dog without dog parks!

Your dog is more likely to have a fun and safe time in a small play group with friend or neighbor-owned dogs with similar play styles. Carefully chose appropriate playmates for your dog, and introduce them slowly and carefully, one at a time. Eventually, the dogs will be able to engage in playtime without worrying about being bullied or backed into a corner by a strange dog. Even if dog-dog conflicts arise from time to time, it is much easier to manage in a small group of known dog friends. Below are some more ideas for exercise that don't involve other dogs:

- Many dogs like to swim, especially sporting or retriever types
- Train your dog to run alongside you (leashed) while you ride your bike
- Go for a brisk morning jog and take your dog alone
- Hike on trails with your dog (on or off leash). You may pass other dogs, but the dogs aren't expected to meet or interact.
- Enroll your dog in an agility or Rally Obedience class to exercise her body and mind!
- Take your dog to an empty tennis court and throw or hit balls to her.
- Teach your dog to play fetch or tug.
- Take your dog through an obedience class where she will learn to look to you for guidance and be around other dogs without playing...and polish up her manners!

LICENSING INFORMATION

California Health and Safety Code Section 121690 requires that all dogs over the age of four months old be vaccinated against rabies with an approved vaccine. BEBHS vaccinates all dogs over the age of four months for rabies, if the vaccine has not been given previously or there are no known vaccination records. If BEBHS has vaccinated your new dog, you will receive a printed Rabies Certificate and a rabies tag. You will need these items to license your dog in your city or county.

Below, please find the licensing locations for nearby cities and counties. If your city is not listed, please check with your local animal control office or police department.

BERKELEY

City of Berkeley Finance Customer Service
1947 Center Street, 1st floor
Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 981-7200

OAKLAND

Oakland Animal Services
1101 29th Avenue
Oakland, CA 94601
(510) 535-5602

ALBANY

City of Albany Finance Department
405 Kains Avenue
Albany, CA 94706
(510) 528-5730

EMERYVILLE

Emeryville Police Department
2449 Powell Street
Emeryville, CA 94608
(510) 596-3700

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Contra Costa Animal Services Department
Pinole Shelter:
910 San Pablo Avenue
Pinole, CA 94564
(510) 374-3966
Martinez Shelter:
4800 Imhoff Place
Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 335-8310

Contra Costa County also allows licensing online at www.licensepet.com/contracosta

POISONS & TOXINS LIST

TOXIC HUMAN FOOD & MEDICATION

Foods: Alcoholic beverages, avocado, chocolate (all forms), coffee (all forms), garlic, grapes, macadamia nuts, moldy or spoiled foods, onions, onion powder, raisins, salt, Xylitol (sweetener), yeast dough.

Medications: (generic types) Anti-cancer drugs, antidepressants, cold medications, diet pills, painkillers, vitamins.

SEASONAL HAZARDS

Warm weather hazards: Animal toxins, blue-green algae in ponds, citronella candles, cocoa mulch, compost piles, fertilizers, flea products, fly baits containing methomyl, slug and snail baits containing metaldehyde, swimming pool treatment supplies.

Cold weather hazards: Antifreeze, ice-melting products, liquid potpourri, rodent bait.

HOLIDAY HAZARDS

Christmas tree water (may contain fertilizers and bacteria), batteries, electrical cords, glass ornaments, ribbons or tinsel (can become lodged in the intestine and cause obstruction – most often occurs with kittens).

POISONOUS PLANTS (list is not all inclusive)

ALL BULBS, Amaylillis, Apple Leaf Croton, Autumn Crocus, Azalea, Baby's Breath, Bittersweet, Bird of Paradise, Branching Ivy, Buckeye, Buddhist Pine, Caladium, Calla Lily, Castor Bean, Ceriman, Charming Dieffenbachia, Chinese Evergreen, Christmas Rose, Cineraria, Clematis, Cordatum, Corn Plant, Cornstalk Plant, Croton, Cuban Laurel, Cutleaf Philodendron, Cycads, Cyclamen, Daffodil, Devil's Ivy, Dianthus, Dieffenbachia, Dracaena Palm, Dragon Tree, Dumb Cane, Easter Lily*, Elaine, Elephant Ears, Emerald Feather, English Ivy, Fiddle-leaf Fig, Florida Beauty, Foxglove, Fruit Salad Plant, Geranium, German Ivy, Giant Dumb Cane, Glacier Ivy, Gold Dieffenbachia, Gold Dust Dracaena, Golden Pothos, Hahn's Self-Branching Ivy, Heartland Philodendron, Hops, Hurricane Plant, Indian Rubber Plant, Janet Craig Dracaena, Japanese Show Lily*, Jerusalem Cherry, Kalanchoe, Lacy Tree Philodendron, Lily of the Valley, Madagascar Dragon Tree, Marble Queen, Marijuana, Mexican Breadfruit, Miniature Croton, Mistletoe, Morning Glory, Mother-in Law's Tongue, Narcissus Needlepoint Ivy, Nephytis, Nightshade, Oleander, Oriental Lily*, Peace Lily, Pencil Cactus, Plumosa Fern, Poinsettia, Poison Ivy, Poison Oak, Pothos, Precatory Bean, Primrose, Red Emerald, Red Princess, Red-Margined Dracaena, Rhododendron, Ribbon Plant, Saddle Leaf Philodendron, Sago Palm, Satin Pothos, Schefflera, Silver Pothos, Spotted Dumb Cane, Stargazer Lily*, String of Pearls, Striped Dracaena, Sweetheart Ivy, Swiss Cheese Plant, Taro Vine, Tiger Lily*, Tobacco, Tree Philodendron, Tropic Snow Dieffenbachia, Weeping Fig, Yew

* Toxic to Cats only