

## The Animal Control Services Canine Adoption Programme

### Mission Statement

To place as many healthy, adoptable dogs in permanent homes as possible. In order to accomplish our mission we will:

- Screen dogs for health, temperament and suitability for placement into homes;
- Match owners with most compatible dogs;
- Educate owners regarding laws and The Dog Control Act including proper confinement, care and registration.

### Choosing the Right Dog for You

Let our shelter staff help you choose a dog that suits your lifestyle. Think carefully about what you and your family want from a dog - a quiet companion? An active playmate? A family friend? Every breed of dog has differing characteristics and each individual dog is different. When choosing a dog, answer these questions:

- How much time do I have to spend caring for my dog?
- Do I want an active or passive dog?
- How much of my income can I spend on a dog?
- Am I a patient person?
- Why exactly, do I want a dog?

Our shelter staff will be happy to discuss your needs in a dog and match the dog to you and your family.

### Check List Signs Of Health For Your Dog

1. General: Your dog greets you happily, keen to play.
2. Standing and Walking: No signs of lameness or stiffness.
3. Urine: Clear and Straw coloured and passed easily.
4. Faeces: Firm - not hard or sloppy.  
Mid - brown - Not black or blood flecked or grey.  
Contents - Check for foreign bodies, worms or parts of worms.
5. Nose: Any discharge should be clear and in small amounts.  
Not copious or thick and coloured.
6. Mouth: Teeth in good condition and not too much tartar.  
Gums - Pink in colour. No foul smell or smell of urine on the breath.
7. Eyes: Clear and no heavy or coloured discharge.  
Inside the eyelids should be pink and there should be no obvious injuries.
8. Ears: Clean, only a small amount of dark wax. No foul smell. No inflammation or injuries to the inner ear or ear flap.
9. Coat: Skin should move easily over the body. Hair should be glossy, free of bald patches, parasites and damaged or split hair.
10. Feet: Pads and between pads free of injury or inflammation. Nails not split or damaged.
11. Genitals: Free from heavy discharge, swelling or inflammation.
12. Anus: Free from heavy discharge, swelling or inflammation. If your dog drags its backside along the ground it could be a sign of a foreign body, anal gland problems or worms.
13. Appetite: A healthy dog eats its food greedily in a few minutes and drinks water regularly - note any changes in your dog's appetite, they could be signs of ill health.
14. Temperature } These are signs of health that your  
15. Respiration } veterinarian checks if you note something  
16. Pulse } wrong with the first thirteen signs.

**An Animal Control Services Presentation**  
**P.O. Box 6575 Wellesley Street, Auckland, New Zealand**  
**Telephone: 09-360 0750**



## ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES CANINE ADOPTION

### A Prospective Dog Owner's Guide to Adoption from Animal Control Services Shelter

Animal Control Services provides animal related services to many areas within the greater Auckland area.

This brochure outlines the adoption services available at Animal Control Services and answers the most commonly asked questions. If you have additional questions, please phone us:

Auckland 09 360 0750

After you've thought about your preferences for a new dog, it's time to...

## Visit Our Shelter

Welcome to Animal Control Services - we're glad you chose our shelter to look for a new dog. To view the animals, please take a walk through the shelter and **note the kennel/cage number of any dog you may be interested in adopting or ask staff to show you a suitable dog.** This number will allow the shelter staff to give you information about the dog. Please do not open cages, ask Shelter staff for assistance.

Since most of the dogs are strays, they must be held 7 days in order to give their owners time to find them. Therefore, most dogs will not be available the first day you see them. If you decide on a specific dog, we will place a hold on that dog and designate an adoption day.

**Dogs are screened to ensure the best potential for a successful adoption. Some dogs may not be adoptable due to illness, temperament or other circumstances.**

## Adoption Day

The shelter staff are there specifically to help you choose the right dog. They are familiar with animal behaviour, basic health care, customer service and human/companion animal bonding.

They are dog lovers and owners themselves. Trust them to help you make the right decision - for you and your dog.

The adoption process will take 20-30 minutes during which time the shelter staff will help you:

- Complete the adoption application
- Select a dog
- Arrange for desexing of the dog
- Understand current laws and regulations

## How Much Does It Cost?

The price of adoption includes:

- Spay/neuter surgery
- Veterinary health examination
- Registration

Current Fees vary for a dog and for a bitch.

Please consider the additional expenses that may be incurred with the adoption of a new dog.

- Annual registration
- Annual vaccinations and check-ups
- Obedience classes
- Emergency veterinary care
- Flea control
- Boarding
- Grooming
- Worming
- Food
- Toys
- Beds

## Coming Home

In all cases, dogs will be desexed before they go home. If your dog has been spayed/neutered, you will pick your new dog up at the veterinary clinic where the surgery was performed. Any additional services, such as vaccinations, grooming, etc., must be arranged with the veterinarian. Postoperative instructions will be given when you pick your dog up. Please have a leash or carrier in order to safely transport your dog home.

Once at home, make your dog comfortable in an enclosed area - the laundry room, bathroom or kitchen. Give your dog time to adjust. Be quiet, calm, loving and gentle and your dog will quickly come to love and trust you. Keep other pets at a distance for a day or so and let small children get to know the dog gradually.

Teach your dog the house rules from the beginning - Be firm and patient - but never yell at or hit your dog.

**It takes 2-4 weeks for a new pet to adjust to your home and family**

If your dog becomes ill, see the veterinarian where your dog was desexed immediately. Unfortunately, shelter dogs may not have been vaccinated by their previous owners and they may have been exposed to other animals on the streets and in the kennel. Only about 5% of adopted pets develop untreatable illnesses. Early veterinary care can save your dog's life!

Finally, we'll be more than happy to assist you with any problems or concerns - please call us if there are any health problems.

Don't expect your pet to be perfect - he certainly won't expect you to be!

## Think Ahead

Be realistic about the time, energy and money you are willing and able to invest in a dog. Are you ready to make this commitment for the lifetime of the animal? Take the time to learn about animal behaviour, training techniques ("Rubbing his nose in it" is NOT the best way to house train a dog!), pet care and breed characteristics (a Cocker Spaniel may not be the best choice for a home with children).

This will help you to make an educated decision about the animal you choose to bring into your home. Planning ahead and making an honest evaluation of your lifestyle will make the adoption of a new dog an enjoyable experience for both of you!