



# TULSA SPCA

**Thank you for adopting a shelter animal! While most of these animals come from indoor homes, we may not know everything they have been through or what their lives looked like prior to coming into our care. The standard rule is it takes about 90 days for an animal to fully adjust to a new environment.**

**Below are some tips & FAQ's to help get you through the initial period!**

## **Take it slow:**

- Give your adopted pet appropriate time to decompress – going into a new home from a shelter environment is a big, stressful change for them.
- Hold off on introductions to new friends, trips to pet stores, or dog parks for at least a week.
- Provide consistency in rules of the home
  - Ex. Are there room off limits? Are they allowed on furniture? Are they allowed to beg for food?
- Provide a safety zone
  - Another room, crate, or even just a bed where they are allowed to just be alone (away from humans and other pets) when they are feeling overwhelmed.
- Provide positive reinforcement for the behaviors you want to see
  - Praise, treats, or toys can be used as positive reinforcement, depending on what the animal likes best
- Crate training is recommended for dogs, as it could keep them and your belongings safe when the animal is left unsupervised during the adjustment period.
- Do not leave them outside unattended, even in a fenced yard, for at least the first 1-2wks

## **Manage their environment:**

- Is the trash can within their reach?
- Has the fence been checked for holes?
- Are any plants within their reach toxic to animals?
- Is there anything within their reach they could mistake for a toy?

### **Microchip information:**

Your pet's microchip is a tiny device implanted between the shoulder blades. If the animal goes missing, a vet clinic, pet store, or animal shelter will be able to scan them and pull up owner information. If you change their name or any of your personal contact info, you will want to visit the microchip company's website to update this in their system. A microchip is not a GPS tracker, though there are collars marketed for this purpose.

### **Medical information:**

An email with their complete medical history should be in your email inbox post-adoption, this is what should be taken to a new vet to establish the patient's history.

A Rabies Certificate should be included with this paperwork – this is what shows your animal was vaccinated against Rabies by a licensed veterinarian. Animals adopted under 12 weeks of age will not have received a Rabies vaccination, as 12 weeks is the minimum age to receive this vaccine.

The Exit Exam gone over by the Animal Placement Specialist and signed by the adopter is more of a cheat-sheet for due dates (vaccine & parasite prevention) and an outline of medical issues and/or a medication schedule than an actual medical document.

If you are unclear on any of their medical information, need additional copies, or have a medical concern within 48hrs of the adoption, please reach out to 918-805-4029 (call or text), or email [adoptions@tulsaspca.org](mailto:adoptions@tulsaspca.org).

Per the adoption contract, Tulsa SPCA will cover any medical conditions reported within 48hrs of the adoption & treated by our clinic.

### **Feeding:**

We feed Purina One dog & cat dry food at the shelter.

Dogs (over 6 months of age) are used to eating in the morning & in the evening with us. Puppies (under 6 months) are fed 3x daily.

Cats (over 6 months of age) have access to dry consistently and are given wet 1-2x daily. Kittens always have access to dry kitten food and are offered wet 3x daily.

### **Resources:**

- GoodPup training flyer: 1 free week of virtual training with a fear-free trainer, lifetime discount if you choose to continue the service
- Training/behavior resources through our website: <https://www.tulsaspca.org/resources/>
- Questions or concerns? Contact our Animal Placement Specialists:
  - Email: [adoptions@tulsaspca.org](mailto:adoptions@tulsaspca.org)
  - Call/text: 918-805-4029