

“What is included with an adoption?”

“How should I introduce my new dog to my cat?”

“How can I help my new dog feel safe?”

“Who can I call if I need help with my new dog?”

KC PET PROJECT

KC Pet Project Dog Adoption Guide

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KC Pet Project
KC Campus for Animal Care
7077 Elmwood Ave, Kansas City, MO 64132
816-683-1383
kcpetproject.org

Top 5 Things You Need To Know!

- 1. Here's what's included in your pet's adoption!** – Your adoption fee includes several important things you need to know about:
 - Spay/neuter
 - Bordetella and DA2PPV vaccinations
 - Rabies vaccination, if 4 months of age or older
 - Dewormer
 - Heartworm test, if 6 months of age or older
 - Microchip
 - A Medical Summary of vaccinations and all other medical care provided
 - An opportunity to sign up for a 30-day FREE Gift of Pet Insurance
 - Access to behavior help with KC Pet Project Behavior Staff
 - Access to medical care through the KC Pet Project Veterinary Clinic for 14-days following adoption.
- 2. Here's what to watch for regarding your pet's health!** – While your pet may be healthy today, he/she may have been exposed to contagious illness while in the shelter. Adopters should watch for signs of illness within the first 14-days after adoption and contact KC Pet Project's Main Adoption Center at **816-683-1353** if there are medical concerns. Sneezing, coughing, watery eyes, loss of appetite, and lethargy could indicate your pet needs medical attention. See [Disease Advisory & Your Pet's Health](#) on page 6 for more information about potential illness, what signs to look for, and risks to other pets in the home.
- 3. Here's what you need to know about your pet's behavior!** – Some animals enter the shelter as a stray with no known behavior history or understanding about what their life was like before coming to the shelter. Others come in surrendered by their owner who is able to provide details about the animal's past. Your Adoption Counselor can share information we have on record, if any. Regardless, it is important to understand behavior is changing and influenced by environment, including the people and other animals in it. We cannot make any guarantees about how an animal will behave in its new home. You should plan to supervise your new pet when being introduced to people and other pets in the home and have a safe place to keep the pet when it cannot be supervised, such as a kennel. See [Behavior Disclaimer](#) on page 9 for more information.
- 4. Your pet needs a plan for the first week!** – Dogs have an elevated stress hormone during the first week in a new home. They are much more likely to either want to retreat and hide or be defensive during the first week (fight or flight). It is important to go slow with your new pet. Give him/her space when needed, and use lots of positive reinforcement such as extra tasty food rewards to make a good first impression of you and your family. It is also really important to make a safe place in your home for your new pet, such as a kennel or a room, especially for times when you are not home or your pet needs downtime. But before you leave your pet in his safe space you will need to spend time making it familiar and positive. For help transitioning your new dog into your home, contact KC Pet Project's Behavior & Training Staff at **816-683-1383** or email them at behavior@kcpetproject.org.
- 5. Your pet is microchipped!** – As part of your adoption, your pet received a microchip. The microchip helps increase the likelihood that your pet will be reunited with you if you are ever separated. Keeping up-to-date contact information on file with the microchip company is essential to getting your pet back home. Too often KC Pet Project receives lost animals only to discover the contact information for the pet's owner is no longer valid. See [Your Pet's Microchip](#) on page 10 for more detailed information about how the microchip works and what to do to keep your contact information accurate.

What You Should Go Home With Today

Please make sure your adoption counselor provides you with these items to take home:

- This packet of information!
- Medical Summary of your new pet's medical history while at the shelter/adoption center
- Information about your pet's microchip. (NOTE: Some pets do not have a tag)
- Rabies tag and certificate (if 4 months of age or older)
- Information about how to enroll in 30 days of FREE pet insurance
- Medication (if pet is actively being treated for a medical condition)*
- City License (required for residents of Kansas City, MO only) - *There is a \$12 fee.**
- Any supplies you need to purchase to be ready for your new pet, such as a pet carrier, litter box, food, toys, etc.

** These items only apply in certain conditions.*

About KC Pet Project

KC Pet Project is a 501c3, nonprofit charitable organization operating the Kansas City, Missouri Animal Shelter. We care for more than 11,000 animals a year, making us the 3rd Largest Open-Admission No-Kill Shelter in the country. We focus on lifesaving programs promoting pet retention, identification, lost pet reunions, and pet ownership education throughout the community. KC Pet Project is creating a No Kill Kansas City – *we're passionate about lifesaving!*

KCPP Mission

To end the killing of healthy and treatable pets in Kansas City, Missouri by using the most progressive and lifesaving programs and promoting effective animal control policies.

KCPP Purpose

The purpose of the Kansas City Pet Project is to facilitate the placement of homeless pets into suitable homes; to establish and maintain an animal shelter for Kansas City, MO; to maintain associated procedures which promote: the health and welfare of pets in our care, prevention of unplanned litters, pet retention and reunification of lost pets to their owners; to increase public safety by addressing issues related to irresponsible pet owners and dangerous animals. We are keenly focused on optimal lifesaving and creating a No Kill Community in the Kansas City Metro.

Disease Advisory & Your Pet's Health

Exposure to Illness

KC Pet Project is an open-admission animal shelter, and as such, please be advised that animals in our care may be exposed to a variety of illnesses. Although we vaccinate all animals against disease upon intake, we simply cannot guarantee the health of any pet adopted from our shelter. Please monitor your new pet closely and if you see any symptoms of illness, contact our office immediately or take the pet to a veterinarian as soon as possible.

What Do I Do if My Pet Shows Signs of Illness?

You have two options if your newly adopted animal shows signs of illness **within 14 days** after adoption:

1. You can take your pet to your veterinarian - understanding you will be responsible for fees. KC Pet Project will not pay or reimburse you for veterinary bills.
2. You may make an appointment to bring your pet to our shelter so our Shelter Veterinarian can conduct an examination and make recommendations in terms of necessary treatments or options. Call **816-683-1353** to schedule an appointment during regular business hours. **We do not offer emergency or after-hours care.**

NOTE: Please understand that we cannot pay your veterinary bills. If you choose to take your pet to a private veterinarian or emergency/specialty clinic, you are solely responsible for payment of all incurred expenses.

What Are the Symptoms to Watch For?

Illnesses your pet may have been exposed to may present as upper respiratory symptoms such as **sneezing, coughing, runny eyes, runny nose, fever,**

lethargy, and dehydration. If you notice any of these symptoms please call our shelter so we can help you make the best decision for your pet. There are many diseases that can start with these symptoms, including Distemper, which can be fatal.

Are My Other Pets at Risk of Illness?

Potentially, yes. There are a variety of contagious illnesses animals may be exposed to in the shelter setting. For example, it is quite common for animals in a shelter to come down with an upper respiratory infection (sneezing, runny eyes, congestion, etc.). Even if your new pet looks healthy today, there are still some risks associated.

Please make sure that your pets at home are current on all vaccinations and are healthy. Do not immediately expose any unvaccinated pet to a newly adopted shelter pet. It is recommended that adopters separate their new pet from other pets in the home for 14 days while monitoring for symptoms of contagious illness.

Wellness Exam for Your New Pet

While your pet has been checked out by a veterinarian, shelter veterinary staff care for hundreds of animals each day. As part of your Adoption Contract, you are asked to take your new pet to a private vet for a Wellness Exam. This is intended to 1) have your pet intimately examined in the way only a private veterinarian can do, and 2) help you start a plan for routine vet care for your pet.

Please contact your personal veterinarian within 72 hours to schedule the required wellness appointment. This can be two to three weeks out from adoption to reduce stress. If you do not have a veterinarian, we can suggest several veterinary clinics in the metro area that provide free or low-cost wellness exams for newly adopted pets from KC Pet Project. See ***Clinics Offering Free Wellness Exams for KC Pet Project Adopters*** on page 7.

Clinics Offering Free Wellness Exams to KC Pet Project Adopters

As part of your adoption agreement, you **must contact your private veterinarian within 72 hours after adoption** for a wellness exam. For your convenience, below is a list of clinics that are generously offering a **FREE Wellness Exam** for new KC Pet Project adopters. Please contact the vet clinic to discuss terms of the offer and what service(s) are included. This list is subject to change without notice.

MISSOURI

Northland:

Amity Woods Animal Hospital

9300 NW 87th Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64153
816-880-6650

Shoal Creek Animal Hospital and Lodge

8850 N Flintlock Road
Kansas City, MO 64157
816-476-4046

Northland Animal Hospital

8351 NW Barrybrooke Dr
Kansas City, MO 64151
816-746-1333

Foxwood Animal Hospital

4704 NE Vivion
Kansas City, MO 64119
816-453-2154

Eagle Animal Hospital

(with boarding and mobile vet)
4825 NW Gateway
Riverside, MO 64150
816-741-2345

Mid-to-South:

Kansas City Vet Care

7240 Wornall Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64114
816-333-4330

Rockhill Pet Clinic

(with boarding)
800 E 63rd St. #3388
Kansas City, MO 64110
816-333-0973

KANSAS

Overland Park:

SouthPaw Animal Clinic

11818 Quivira Rd.
Overland Park, KS 66210
913-956-4959

Mariposa Veterinary Wellness Center

13900 Santa Fe Trail Drive
Lenexa, KS 66215
913-825-3330

Fairway/Prairie Village:

VCA Fairway Animal Hospital

6000 Mission Rd.
Fairway, KS 66205
913-432-7611

Prairie Village Animal Hospital

4045 Somerset Dr.
Prairie Village, KS 66206
913-642-7060

Olathe:

Blackbob Pet Hospital

15200 S Blackbob Rd.
Olathe, KS 66062
913-829-7387

Westwood/KCK:

FMA Animal Hospital

4755 Rainbow Blvd.
Westwood, KS 66205
913-262-1600

Westwood Animal Hospital

4820 Rainbow Blvd.
Westwood, KS 66205
913-362-2512

Sign Up for 30 days of FREE Pet Insurance!

One of the benefits of your adoption is that you are eligible to sign up for 30 days of FREE ShelterCare Pet Insurance from 24PetWatch. You have 7 days from the time of adoption to take advantage of this opportunity.

3 Ways to Sign Up!



A confirmation code will be sent to you via email within 72 hours of your adoption. Please call 24PetWatch for assistance if you do not receive an email. Check the "Junk Folder" in your email account before calling.

What Is Covered by 24PetWatch ShelterCare Pet Insurance?

24PetWatch ShelterCare Pet Insurance coverage includes the following (subject to change without notice):

- Foreign Body Ingestion Removal
- Motor Vehicle Accident
- Wounds/Lacerations
- Bone Fractures
- Defined Poison Ingestion
- Ear or eye infections
- Intestinal Parasites
- Upper Respiratory Tract Infections
- Urinary Tract Infections
- Mange/Mites/Ringworms
- Canine Parvovirus/Feline Panleukopenia
- Heartworm Disease

The policy covers a maximum of \$1,500 with a \$100 one-time deductible. For complete details on your gift policy, including limitations and exclusions, check the coverage information with your enrollment. Pre-existing conditions are typically not covered. If you do have to take your pet to the veterinarian for illness or injury, bring your policy documents with you and show them to your veterinarian BEFORE you commit to any treatments. KC Pet Project is not responsible for decisions about policy coverage. Please direct questions to 24PetWatch.

Are There Hidden Costs?

There is no cost to sign up for the 30-day gift insurance policy. You don't need to provide credit card information to sign up. Your gift will automatically cancel itself after 30 days. If you would like to continue insurance coverage after 30 days, you can request additional coverage and 24 Pet Watch will offer rate quotes at that time.

Behavior Disclaimer

Your Pet's Behavior History

Many of the animals that come into the shelter came in as a stray, leaving us with little or no behavior history about how the animal behaved outside of the shelter environment. In other cases, the animal may be an "owner surrender," meaning that the animal's previous owner brought the animal to the shelter and may have provided information about the pet's prior behavior while in their care. When behavior history information is available, KC Pet Project will share it with adopters. Because it was not directly observed by KC Pet Project staff, we cannot guarantee the validity of behavior information reported by a previous owner. We also cannot guarantee how the animals were handled and cared for and what influence that might have had on their reported behavior.

No Guarantees

Your pet's behavior is not static, but instead changes depending on the environment, as well as the influence that people, other animals, and events might have on your animal. Therefore, how the animal behaves in the adoption center may not be an accurate reflection of how the animal will behave in your home.

Make a Plan for Your Pet

Because we cannot guarantee how an animal will behave in the future, adopters are advised to make a plan for how to safely integrate the new pet into the home. That plan should include supervision around children and other pets, and a safe place to keep the pet when it cannot be supervised. Adopters should also make a plan to help the animal cope with the stress of settling into your home. Animals have an elevated stress hormone during the first week in a new home, sometimes longer. Animals are much more likely to either want to retreat and hide or be defensive during the

first week. It is important to go slow with your new pet. Give him/her space when needed, and use lots of positive reinforcement such as high-value (extra special) food rewards to make a good first impression of you and your family. If you need advice about transitioning your new pet into the home, call or email KC Pet Project at **816-683-1383** or behavior@kcpetproject.org to speak to a member of the Training & Behavior Dept.

Behavior Help & Returning a Pet to KC Pet Project

Transition Period

We hope that the transition from the adoption center to your loving home will be a smooth one, however it is important to know that the first few weeks in a new home can be both exciting and stressful for the pet and family. Sometimes your new pet may display problematic behavior during this transition period. Oftentimes these behaviors can be resolved with patience and a few adjustments to manage the behavior and reduce stress. KC Pet Project has Behavior Staff to help give you guidance during the transition if you have questions or concerns.

What if I Can't Keep Them?!?

Depending on the severity of the concerns, sometimes new pet owners begin to question if the pet they chose is the right fit for their home. Before you attempt to return a pet to the shelter, please follow these steps:

1. Contact KC Pet Project's Behavior Staff at **816-683-1383** or behavior@kcpetproject.org. Leave a message for the training department and a trainer will call you back to assist you. We ***do*** expect adopters to make ***reasonable*** attempts to work with their new pet before initiating a return. Please remember that it may take a little time for you to see the benefit of

training, so be patient. There are no magic wands in training.

2. Try to rehome the pet on your own. We encourage you to check out <https://rehome.adoptapet.com/> Rehoming your pet should be easy and stress free both for you and your pet. The experts at Adopt-a-Pet.com, the largest non-profit pet adoption website, with support from The Petco Foundation, have created a simple, reliable, free program to help you place your pet from your loving home directly to another.
3. If you have tried those options, you may contact the Main Shelter at **816-683-1363** to make an appointment to return the animal. The shelter receives a high volume of phone calls so you may receive our voicemail but calls will be returned within the same day.
4. **ALL RETURNS MUST GO TO THE KCCAC.** The Campus is located at 7077 Elmwood Ave, Kansas City, MO 64132. Even if your pet was adopted from a Petco or Zona Rosa location, animals ***MUST*** be returned to the KCCAC. Our satellite locations are not intake facilities, and once a pet adoption is completed the animal's cage space is filled with another pet awaiting adoption.

Do keep in mind that the shelter environment is very stressful for animals so the decision to return a pet to the shelter should not be made lightly. If you know a friend or family member that can provide a safe and loving home for your pet, you may be able to prevent your pet from going back to the shelter.

Can I Get a Refund?

Adopters who return an animal within the first 30 days of adoption ***may*** be eligible for the selection of a new pet, pending manager approval. A 50% refund of the adoption fee ("extra" purchases will not be refunded) will be offered only if the animal is returned for a chronic medical problem as diagnosed by the adopter's private veterinarian. Failure to comply with the terms of the adoption

agreement may disqualify you for a refund and/or exchange.

Your Pet's Microchip

24PetWatch Microchips

Your pet is microchipped as a standard part of the adoption process. This service is provided to help ensure the likelihood your pet will be returned to you should you ever get separated. It is not a GPS service, so unfortunately it doesn't allow you to track your lost pet. But it will allow any shelter and most vet clinics to reunite you with your pet using a scanner that detects your new pet's chip.

Each chip has a unique number sequence that matches up to your contact information. In most cases, the shelter uses the contact information you provided on your Adoption Survey to register your chip automatically via our database. If your pet has a 24PetWatch microchip, this contact information can be edited at no cost for up to a year. Should you move, change your phone number, or want to add other ways to be contacted, after the first year, there is a nominal annual fee to do so, or a one-time life-time fee option. Visit 24petwatch.com or call **1-866-597-2424** to edit your account.

Other Microchips

Occasionally we may have a pet come to the shelter already chipped. If your pet has a chip from any company other than 24PetWatch, you will need to contact the appropriate chip company to register the chip yourself. There may be fees associated. Here's how to contact other common microchip companies:

- **Home Again:** 1-888-466-3242
- **Avid:** 1-800-336-2843
- **AKC:** 1-800-252-7894
- **Found Animals:**
microchipregistry.foundanimals.org
- **Crystal Tag/Pet Link:** 1-877-738-5465