

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ADOPTION...

PUPPY'S HEALTH

We cannot guarantee a puppy/dog's health. We do everything to keep the puppy healthy but until the puppy has received 4 vaccinations and it is 2 weeks past the last vaccination, can we feel comfortable that the puppy is protected. Even at that point, a puppy's immune system can have a big impact on its health. There are no guarantees. The most threatening diseases are Parvo and Distemper. They can be contracted by walking the puppy in a public area where other dogs go... sick dogs...particularly stray dogs. It can even be contracted from the vet's office...if the vet doesn't sanitize correctly.

HEALTH CERTIFICATES

It is required by each state that a health certificate accompany each dog. These health certificates are filled out by a veterinarian. They look for all signs of possible sickness. They look at the clarity of the eyes, ears, blood circulation in the gums, and condition of the teeth. They listen to the heart, breathing, gut sounds, etc. They review the records to make sure required vaccinations are shown. If there are any signs of illness, including mange and ring worm, they will not approve the health certificate. The vet can only identify sickness if there are symptoms. If the puppy were exposed one day before the exam, the vet has no way of knowing. It is up to the rescuer to be exceptionally careful where the puppies go.

TRANSPORT

Our pups are transported by ground travel in a large van or trailer. All the companies we use require that the pup have a minimum of 2 vaccinations and it be 2 weeks past the last vaccination. Also, if the pup came from a dog pound, animal care service, Animal Defense League, Human Society or any rescue (any place with multiple dogs coming and going), the pup cannot ride for 2 weeks in order to give the required incubation time for most communicable diseases prior to travel.

STRESS OF TRAVEL

The average dog loses 3% of their body weight during this trip. This is due to stress which can lower the immune system. A lowered immune system allows for parasites to take over such as Coccidia and Giardia. These are in every dog's system but kept under control by a strong immune system. It is extremely common in puppies, thus for the puppies we send up we include the medicine for Coccidia. Girardi is less common so we only send SMZ for coccidia. Use this medicine ONLY if you have a problem which usually begins with loose stools. This,

though, could be the sign of stress of a long trip (but not Coccidia) or a change in food. Adults seldom get these problems. If you have any questions please text me...210-394-6060.

KENNEL COUGH

It is required that dogs have the Bordetella vaccination. By having the vaccination, there is no guarantee the dog will not contract "kennel cough." The vaccination covers only a few strains of the virus, thus, if one of the other strains is brought onto the van, all dogs not protected can contract kennel cough. This is typically not a life-threatening infection. Senior dogs or young puppies can have a tougher time going through the 2-3 weeks of symptoms. This is similar to laryngitis...it goes away like a cold does. But, for the very young or seniors, medication to help prevent pneumonia is encouraged.

WORMS

The 5 most common worms are hook, tape, round, pin, and whip worms. Hook worms is the only one that is typically deadly. The others do have an effect on a dog very slow...but usually not deadly. Hook worms on the other hand need to be cured as soon as they are identified. The first symptom is lose stools. This is also a symptom of several things, so getting a vet involved is important to do a fecal test.

All pups are dewormed multiple times prior to transport but it is recommended that they are dewormed once a week for 4 weeks following arrival. These deworming products can be found at the local pet store. We can also give you recommendations of the best working products without breaking the bank.

HEART WORMS

These are not parasites in the gut...they are in the heart and get there through the blood stream. If a mosquito draws blood from an infected dog, the filarial must "incubate" in the mosquito before being injected into another dog. A dog cannot contract heart worms through a blood transfusion... it must go through the mosquito first. A puppy up to 6mos is not tested for heart worms because they cannot have a positive test. After 6 mos, states require a current heart worm test for transport. Prevention is the key to keeping your puppy clear of heart worms. **That is why we send up 6 mos worth of prevention with each adoption.**

NEW OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Register your pet's Microchip (See instruction for the microchip)
2. Get a tag for the pup's collar that has your phone # on it. Do not put the pup's name on it. One side should say "I am Microchipped" and the other side should have your phone #. If people find or steal the dog and think they're going to keep it because it's so cute, this will tell them the dog is identifiable. The phone # will make it so they don't have to go to a vet to make contact. You can also get a GPS tag to hang from his collar that can be tracked by your phone. Also, the reason you don't want the puppy's name on the tag is because you don't want the thieves to have its name in order to make it more comfortable around them.
3. Get a harness, collar, and leash. Get the "No Pull" harness in the "training" section off the pet store...or order through Amazon.
4. Schedule an appointment with your vet for a "wellness" check-up for after such a long trip. It's best to do it within the first week.
5. Be prepared for adjustments. The puppy's world has totally changed. It needs plenty of rest and only a little food...avoid treats. The puppy's system already went through one food change on transport and then will get another with you. Keep it simple.



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