



## Help Us Help Dogs.™

### Quick Tips To Consider Adopting a Shelter Dog

Simply put, shelter dogs rock. They make great companions who become the most loyal and devoted dogs. The makers of Pedigree® are committed to helping these great dogs find loving homes across Canada. Through the year-long Pedigree Adoption Drive™ campaign they hope to raise \$500,000 which will go towards helping dogs – be that covering vet costs, vaccinations, shelter and food for 2,000 dogs across Canada.

#### Facts about shelter dogs

- 🐾 Approximately 100,000 dogs go through a shelter each year
- 🐾 Every year, tens of thousands of dogs are put to sleep
- 🐾 Canada has more than 200 animal shelters, rescue groups and humane societies - Most of these institutions rely heavily on volunteers to take care of the animals.
- 🐾 It costs approximately \$250.00 to care for a dog during its first month at a shelter:
  - \$ 120.00 – Average cost for dog sterilization
  - \$ 50.00 – Food for a month for a medium-sized dog
  - \$ 40.00 – Vet exam and basic vaccinations
  - \$ 30.00 – De-worming and flea prevention
  - \$ 10.00 – Toys and treats

#### Why are there so many dogs in shelters?

Dogs wind up in shelters for a variety of reasons, many of which have nothing to do with problematic behaviour. Some common reasons for dogs to enter a shelter include:

- 🐾 The dog's owner passing away
- 🐾 A cute puppy grows into a large dog that is simply too big to handle
- 🐾 Owners moving to an apartment or condo where dogs are not welcome
- 🐾 An elderly person finds they can no longer care for the dog properly
- 🐾 A growing family doesn't have the time or the finances to support a dog
- 🐾 Owners not being able to care for or find homes for their dog's puppies
- 🐾 Animal abuse



## Reasons to consider adopting a shelter dog

Bringing home a shelter dog is a very rewarding experience. Adopting a dog from a regulated shelter offers many advantages:

- 🐾 **Healthy** Shelters ensure that dogs get a clean bill of health before they go to a new home – this means that shelter dogs have had all their vaccinations, are spayed or neutered and ready to be taken to a good home.
- 🐾 **The Perfect Match** Your local shelter will work with you to choose the right dog to fit your lifestyle; whether it be a high-energy puppy who could use the affection of a large family or a laid-back mature dog perfect for empty nesters.
- 🐾 **Well Behaved** Shelter dogs make for great pets and often become the most loyal and devoted companions. Shelter staff work closely with their shelter dogs and will be able to tell you about their temperament as well as their tolerance and attitude towards people and children.
- 🐾 **Saving a Life** By adopting a shelter dog, you will be helping to save the life of a dog that would otherwise meet an untimely end.

## Tips for Adopting a New Dog

To ensure a smooth transition from the shelter to your home, here are some things to consider when bringing home your newest companion:

- 🐾 **Be Prepared** Get your house ready for the dog by ensuring that you've got the right supplies such as a dog bed, collar, leash, bowls, brush and some toys.
- 🐾 **Visiting Time** Be sure to visit the dog a few times at the shelter before bring him/her home. This is a great time to introduce the dog to the family or significant others and will help make for a smooth transition from the shelter to the home.
- 🐾 **Choose The Right Food** We recommend feeding your dog a mixed feeding regiment of dry and moist food. It's also important to consider the age and size of your dog when choosing the appropriate food. Pedigree® offers a wide variety of wet and dry food for all life stages of dogs and is nutritionally balanced and free of artificial flavours and colours. Pedigree® also has an extensive line of snacks and treats perfect for training and rewarding your dog.
- 🐾 **Bonding Time** Establishing a relationship built on respect, trust and love is perhaps the most important goal of successfully integrating a new dog into a household. Make sure to plan on spending time with your dog and rewarding good behaviours with healthy treats and lots of attention.

For more information on adopting a new dog, where to adopt your dog from and for more tips, please visit [www.mypedigree.ca](http://www.mypedigree.ca).

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For further information, please contact:

Rosanna D'Alessandro, GCI Group, (416) 486-5905, [rdalessandro@gcigroup.com](mailto:rdalessandro@gcigroup.com)

Ashley Curran, GCI Group, (416) 486-5923, [curranas@gcigroup.com](mailto:curranas@gcigroup.com)

Kim Saunders, GCI Group, (416) 486-5901, [ksaunders@gcigroup.com](mailto:ksaunders@gcigroup.com)