CREATE A SAFE & COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT

• Keep your home quiet and calm for the first few weeks when bringing in a new pet – this is not the time to throw parties or travel!
• Make sure to pet-proof your home – be aware of toxins & dangerous foods.
• Give your pet ample time to adjust to the new surroundings. Do not be alarmed if he/she has accidents, whines, hides, or seems fearful during this adjustment period.
• Avoid taking your new pet to off-leash areas – many pets can get spooked and run off, then are unable to find their way home.

TRAINING & SOCIALIZATION ARE ESSENTIAL

• Pets can develop a number of behavioral issues without training – talk to your veterinarian for recommendations.
• Slowly introduce your pet to new people and new surroundings.
• Remember that proper training takes time – don’t expect perfect obedience overnight.
• Humans need training too! Ensure everyone in your household is on board with training and rules to give your pet consistency.
• Teach kids how to properly treat & interact with all pets. Never allow a child to tug on, hit, or ride on the back of a pet.

ESTABLISH YOUR PET’S HEALTH CARE

• Find a veterinarian that you trust and communicate any questions or concerns you have about your pet.
• Regular exercise is vital to your pet’s mental & physical well-being. A healthy pet is far less likely to develop age-related health issues.
• If you find your pet is acting out, he/she may need more exercise.
• One of the most important healthcare practices is to spay/neuter all your pets. This will prevent many behavioral issues and eliminates the chance of certain cancers & health issues, as well as the chance of any unplanned litters.

REMEMBER, PETS ARE A LIFETIME COMMITMENT!

• Plan for unexpected expenses – pets can cost more than $10,000 over a lifetime! You may want to consider pet insurance.
• Millions of pets in shelters are euthanized each year because their owners cannot or will not care for them – make the commitment to invest in your pet!
YOU ADOPTED A FOREVER FRIEND.
BE PATIENT—remember, pets take time adjusting in a new home.