



Save Our Shelters

Adoption Instructions for New Adopters

SOS Pen Pals

804-358-7499

www.sos-penpals.com

Congratulations on the up-coming adoption of your new SOS Pen Pals dog! Thank you for making this adoption possible. Please review the following instructions to help ensure a fun and informative training lesson and a successful adoption.

- **The Adoption Contract:** Whenever possible we will e-mail the adoption contract to you. We request that you return one signed contract with the \$250.00 adoption fee payable to SOS Pen Pals to the address provided. If there is not sufficient time to handle the paperwork before the adoption, then the SOS Pen Pals trainer or our prison liaison will have a contract for you. Please give the \$250.00 fee to the SOS Pen Pals trainer, prison liaison, or mail to the address given you.
- **Included in the Adoption Fee:** You will receive a collar, leash, Easy Walk Harness, a SOS Pen Pals ID tag, a small bag of dog food and of course a dog with a good training foundation!
- **Shopping List for Your New Friend:** Before the big day, please purchase a crate, bedding to make the crate comfortable (old towels are also fine), lots of tasty treats, a high quality dry dog food, a variety of toys (Nylabone, Kong and Cuz toys are great), water and food bowls, and an ID tag with your personal contact information. A dog bed will help make your dog feel even more welcome.
- **Prison Dress Code:** Please do not wear blue jeans, shorts, sleeveless shirts, open-toed shoes, or any revealing clothing.
- **What to bring into the Correctional Center:** All adults must bring a picture ID (driver's license) for identification purposes. Don't forget to bring your car keys! You will be subject to a minor search and asked to pass through a metal detector.
- **What to leave in Your LOCKED CAR:** Cell phones, purses, wallets, money and credit cards, and sharp objects. If you bring along any of these items, a correctional officer will store them in a locker.
- **You cannot bring gifts for the inmate handlers.** But we welcome donations of dog treats, towels, toys, etc. which can be used and enjoyed by the dogs in the program. All items need to be in their original, sealed packaging. Dog related books are also very welcome for the inmate handlers. We would be happy to give you some recommendations.

- Medical Records: You will receive the original medical records at the time of the adoption. These records include the vaccination/shot records, rabies certificate, and copies of any records relating to veterinary visits while your dog was under our care. Please note that not all veterinarians provide rabies tags. If one is available, the rabies tag will be given to you at the time of the adoption. A rabies certificate is sufficient proof that your dog has been vaccinated against rabies. Please mail a copy of the rabies certificate to your county or city to register your dog and obtain a dog license.
- The Adoption Packet: In addition to your new dog's medical records, your adoption packet will include handouts related to training cues and tips, crate training, potty suggestions, and other information you will find very useful. This packet will also include dates of heartworm and flea/tick preventatives, a list of your new dog's favorite toys, and information describing your dog's exercise requirements and feeding instructions, etc. You will also receive a copy of a DVD called "Training Your Adopted Dog" which closely follows the training techniques and style of the SOS Pen Pals trainers and inmate handlers. The SOS Pen Pals trainer has also prepared a list of books and DVDs she recommends.
- Canine Good Citizenship (CGC) Program: CGC testing is provided to the dogs in the SOS Pen Pals program. If your dog passed the CGC test, you will receive the paperwork either at the time of the adoption or it will be mailed to you at a later date.
- The Ride Home: Please bring some old towels or sheets in case your new friend becomes car sick. If you have a long drive home, some water would be appreciated, too. A crate is the safest way to transport your dog home or someone can ride in the back seat and hold the dog's leash.
- After the Adoption: If possible, please contact us after you arrive home. We will contact you within a few days to find out how your new dog is adjusting during the transition. Always remember that we are happy to help answer your questions and address any concerns you may have.
- The First Vet Appointment: Please schedule an appointment with your vet within a few weeks after adopting your dog. It's very important that dogs stay on a monthly heartworm preventative which can only be prescribed by licensed veterinarians. Please don't wait for an emergency to schedule this first appointment. You and your dog will feel much more relaxed if the first trip is more of a "getting to know you" visit. Please remember to give your dog's SOS Pen Pals medical records to your vet.
- We love to stay in touch with you and the inmate handlers enjoy receiving updates and photos on the dogs. If you send any correspondence to us either through the mail or e-mail, we will ensure that your contact information is removed.
- Thank you for making this adoption possible!