



PEDIGREE
ADOPTION DRIVE®

**Adoption
Guide**

Congratulations

from the makers of PEDIGREE®

So you've made the decision to give a loving dog your heart and your home. We'd like to congratulate you on this important decision and offer our sincerest thanks.

As the makers of PEDIGREE®, dogs mean everything. That's why we've created this booklet which includes important information about things to consider as you acclimatize your dog to his new surroundings. We hope that you'll find it useful as you embark upon your long and happy life together.

Your friends at the makers of PEDIGREE®



Your Decision to Adopt	2
Transitioning Your New Dog.....	3
Homecoming Checklist.....	4
Dog Fundamentals	5
Comfort Food.....	6
The PEDIGREE® Brand Commitment.....	7
Training Time	8
Thank You.....	10
Knowing Your Pet Community.....	11

Your Decision to Adopt

Your decision to adopt a dog in need has helped save more than one life. Every day, hundreds of dogs are rescued all across Canada. Each time one of these needy dogs finds a good home, it makes room for another dog, or allows another dog to be kept at a shelter longer, giving them a better chance of also being adopted.

Opening up your heart and home to an “orphan” usually results in an extremely strong relationship. We hope that you’ll experience that special bond which many owners develop with their rescued dog. That can mean a loyal, affectionate, and attentive dog for life.



Transitioning Your New Dog

Your adoption is as big a change for your dog as it is for you. Following a few simple guidelines will help ensure that your new pet is easily and happily acclimated to his new environment.

Also, it's important to keep in mind that like any person, your dog has a unique personality that will gradually reveal itself to you, so be patient on your special journey of mutual discovery.

- Upon first arriving home, give him a chance to settle in, and make sure he has a quiet place to retreat to.
- Get him into a daily routine as soon as possible – a specific time for feeding, sleeping and exercising – and try to stick to that schedule every day.
- Introductions to people outside of your immediate family should be done so gradually – perhaps one or two people at a time.
- It's a good idea to keep your dog leashed until you're sure that he doesn't feel threatened by any new situation.
- Kids love dogs, so make sure that any pet play is supervised until you know that your dog won't show aggression in this situation.

Homecoming Checklist

Bringing home your new dog can feel much like bringing home a new baby. And with the same sort of loving preparation, you can help your dog feel like a wanted part of the family he so desperately needs.

Dog-proofing Your Home

- Make sure that all harmful chemicals and pesticides are inaccessible.
- Keep dangerous or fragile objects out of reach.
- Close any doors or put up baby gates to any rooms you don't want your new dog to go into.



Dog Fundamentals

Put out separate bowls for food and water. Choose stainless steel over plastic, for easier clean-ups.

Prepare his bed with thick, washable bedding for comfort and convenience. A folding wire crate that's large enough for your dog to stand up and turn around in, can also be a good idea.

Dress your dog with a fitted collar and leash measuring between 4"- 6" long, and made of durable leather or woven nylon that's comfortable for you to hold.

Dogs need exercise so try to give him at least 40 minutes of walking/running time daily.

Invest in an assortment of durable plastic or rubber dog toys that can be easily washed. Bringing home one of his toys from the shelter is a thoughtful gesture as it will give off a familiar scent that will make him quickly feel comfortable.

Use a comb or brush to regularly groom your dog, keeping him looking his best.

Get an I.D. tag listing your dog's name and home particulars. Consider also bringing him to the vet to be micro-chipped. It's quick, safe and effective should your new dog get lost.



Comfort Food

Another way to make your dog feel comfortable in his new home is by feeding him the same food he was given at the shelter. This helps him maintain a sense of familiarity as he assimilates all the newness of the world around him.

After a few days, slowly introduce him to his new food. Select a brand like PEDIGREE® that offers 100% complete and balanced nutrition that's customized based on your dog's unique needs and life-stage. And, always make sure that there's fresh water in his bowl.



Pedigree

BRAND

As the makers of PEDIGREE® we pride ourselves in offering a full range of wet and dry foods, plus a variety of snacks and treats to keep dogs of all shapes, sizes, ages and breeds healthy and happy for life.



Visit mypedigree.ca to help find the PEDIGREE® Food that's right for your dog.

Training Time

A dog that's been taught a few simple rules will become a well-adjusted and well-behaved family pet. If your newly adopted dog doesn't have his commands down, make it a first priority – either to do on your own or with the help of an obedience trainer.

Your new addition needs to be taught manners and the rules of the household. It's important to reinforce important things like no barking unnecessarily, or biting. The key to training any dog is to realize that he really does want to please you. So, praise and reward him for appropriate behaviour, and use a stern “No” command to correct actions.

Also, keep in mind that if your adopted dog is older he may have hearing difficulties. In this case you'll need to re-teach him the basic commands using hand signs or physical touching.

Visit www.mypedigree.ca for tips on how to make your training sessions effective and fun.



Socializing

The experiences you give your new dog during his first few weeks will lay the foundation for his behavior later on in life. So invest the time he needs to learn about your expectations of him. It's great fun and will help you get to know your new companion very quickly.

Key to remember:

- Dogs are pack animals that need a leader. It's important that your dog recognizes you as the pack leader and knows his place within the "pack" when you bring him home.
- Make household rules clear – for example, is he allowed on the couch? Whatever the answer, these rules should be consistently reinforced to help your dog understand.
- Expose your dog to situations and environments where he will need to feel comfortable – like riding in the car, meeting the mailman, having contact with children, walking through a dog-filled park etc. Preparing him will teach him to react with pleasant curiosity rather than with fear or aggression.

For more important information on socializing your new dog, visit www.mypedigree.ca



Thank You

Thank you for adopting a shelter dog. Your new commitment means that a deserving dog is now on his way to living a long and happy life while providing you with warm companionship and unconditional love.

As this exciting new chapter in both your lives is about to begin, we look forward to hearing about your adoption success story. Just visit www.mypedigree.ca and tell us all about your special, new bond.



Knowing your Pet Community – Important Names and Numbers

Veterinarian:

Address:

Telephone:

Animal Hospital:

Address:

Telephone:

Pet Groomer:

Address:

Telephone:

Doggy Daycare:

Address:

Telephone:

Lost Pet Hotline/Website:

.....

Dog Park Hours:

Friends with Dogs

Name:

Dog Name:

Telephone:

Name:

Dog Name:

Telephone:

Name:

Dog Name:

Telephone:

The makers of PEDIGREE®,

Consumer Affairs:

Call toll-free: 1-800-667-2424



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Shelter dogs are good dogs.

www.mypedigree.ca