

## **Spaying and Neutering – It is the law**

Pennsylvania law requires that every animal adopted from a shelter must be spayed or neutered. Altering your new pet is beneficial for many health and behavioral reasons. The cost of spaying or neutering is covered in the adoption cost of your new pet. Pet overpopulation is a nationwide epidemic. Each year approximately 10 million animals are euthanized because there are not enough homes for these animals.

## **The Adjustment Process**

Can you imagine what it would be like to suddenly find yourself in a foreign country, unable to speak the language and unsure of the laws of land? This is how your new pet may feel when s/he is introduced to its new home. It will take your new friend some time to establish itself and learn the household routines. It's your responsibility to help your new companion to adjust and learn. If you are committed, patient, and have a solid plan, success is inevitable.

We strongly recommend all adopters and their dogs join an obedience class with a reputable trainer. After all, manners are learned. Too many dogs are turned over to us for behavioral issues that could have been avoided through proper obedience training. These classes will help you teach your dog commands such as sit, stay, down, come and heel. Your dog will learn to walk on a leash, follow commands in distracting situations, and will receive crucial socialization with strangers and other animals.

We also recommend crate training your adopted dog. The benefits of crate training are endless. We will be happy to assist you with information regarding crate training your dog or puppy. You owe it to them to provide a safe, comfortable retreat when you are not home.

If you adopt a cat, we urge you to keep it as an indoor only companion. It's a dangerous world out there, especially for cats that go outdoors. There are laws regarding outside cats. The average lifespan of an outdoor cat is only three years and the number of lost cats reunited with their families is extremely low. Love your cat . . . indoors!