

 **Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Israel**  
Since 1927

## Guide to Adopting a Dog



# Forward

We congratulate you upon your decision to take a dog into your life and your home. There are many advantages to raising a dog (and in fact, any pet), and extensive research has proven that pet-owners tend to be more relaxed, healthier, and have a longer life expectancy. Together with the many advantages we have, however, to consider some less convenient aspects, such as, for example, the responsibility towards and the obligation to care for your animal. In the case of dogs, that means going out for walks a few times a day; dirt; the possibility that the dog might ruin things around the house; the expenses for food and veterinary care; and then, of course, the time you need to devote to your dog!

It is important to understand that the adoption of pets should not be done on a whim, nor is it a hobby that you can give up when you are bored with it. This is a long-term obligation you take upon yourself, demanding the investment of time, money and lots of attention and love. Before you begin the process of adoption you need to think a moment: are you really ready for this? Is your family ready? Can you provide the dog with all its physical and emotional needs? If the answer is yes, read our guide.

Our guide is intended to prepare you, in the best way possible, for the significant change that you and your adopted dog are about to undergo, and it will help you to get appropriately prepared. It is important to remember that most of the dogs at the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Israel (and indeed in practically every shelter or dog pound) experienced abandonment at least once. Both you and the dog are about to face a period of adjustment that may not be easy, and the dog's behavior in this period may not live up to your expectations. It will take some time until it understands what you want from it and what the boundaries are, so be patient until it has fully adjusted. It will be worth it for you - at the end of the process you will have a new friend who will add unconditional love, friendship and loyalty to your life.



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## Choosing the dog

Since the significance of adoption is the addition of a new friend to the family, it is worthwhile for all members of the family to participate in every stage of the process. It is possible that you will have to visit the Society a number of times until you find the dog most suitable for you - there are dogs that bark a lot, dogs that are nervous around children, others that don't get along with other animals. Don't compromise; consult with our experienced adoption counselors, who will help you find the dog most suitable to your lifestyle and home.

**Breed:** In the SPCA you will find mixed-breed dogs and purebreds. The purebreds are, of course, very impressive, and it is easy to determine how big they will grow and what characteristics they will have, but they tend to suffer from genetic illnesses according to their breeds. Mixed-breed dogs are often healthier and are of all sizes, shapes, colors and temperaments. Should you decide to adopt a purebred, we recommend reading up about the breed to learn about its characteristics and appropriate care.

**Size:** The size of the dog does not necessarily testify to its character, but in general big dogs need more food, space and physical activity. Small dogs are easier to control, which is an important factor, especially when there are children in the family.

**Age:** An older dog already has set habits, for better or worse. For the most part it will be house-trained and not wreak havoc within the house, and it will be grateful for the new home that you have provided. On the other hand, a puppy needs to go through a month-long adjustment period, during which you house-train it and teach it not to destroy the house with its chewing and its games, so we are talking about a greater investment of time and attention.

**Name:** Many of the dogs in the Society were brought to us by their owners, and are accustomed to the names that they were given. Dogs who were found abandoned, whose original names we do not know (if they even had a name), were given names by the Society staff. In any case, it is possible to change a dog's name and it will grow accustomed to it after a short time. If you decide to change the dog's name, we recommend choosing an easily remembered name of two syllables, and avoiding names which sound like commands such as 'sit', 'down' and 'come'.



## Preparing the home

Once you have finished the process of adoption at the Society, which includes a meeting with an adoption counselor, choosing your dog and it getting appropriate veterinary treatment, and after the dog or bitch has been castrated or spayed, you will take it to its new home. The preparation for bringing home a dog is similar to the preparations for a new baby: you need special accessories for its sleeping, eating, hygiene, walks and play.

**Sleep:** We recommend preparing a permanent bed for the dog - a rug or big pillow. Put the bed in the living room or the kitchen where the dog can see the family, and where it will have room to move about when it stays home alone.

**Feeding:** Prepare bowls for water and food appropriate to the size of the dog. They should be stable, preferably made of stainless steel, wide enough, easily accessible, and placed near the dog's bed. Buy treats and pampering foods for the first days.

**Collar:** There are a variety of types: a leather collar, which is pleasant to the touch but absorbs odors and dirt; a metal collar, which is meant for large dogs that need restraining; a synthetic collar that is easy to clean. It is a good idea to buy a harness collar, which lessens the pressure on the neck.

**The leash:** We recommend using a leash, two to three meters long, with a loop that you can place around your wrist for better control. If the dog is large and strong, it's best to buy a thick leash. A short leash will keep the dog under control.





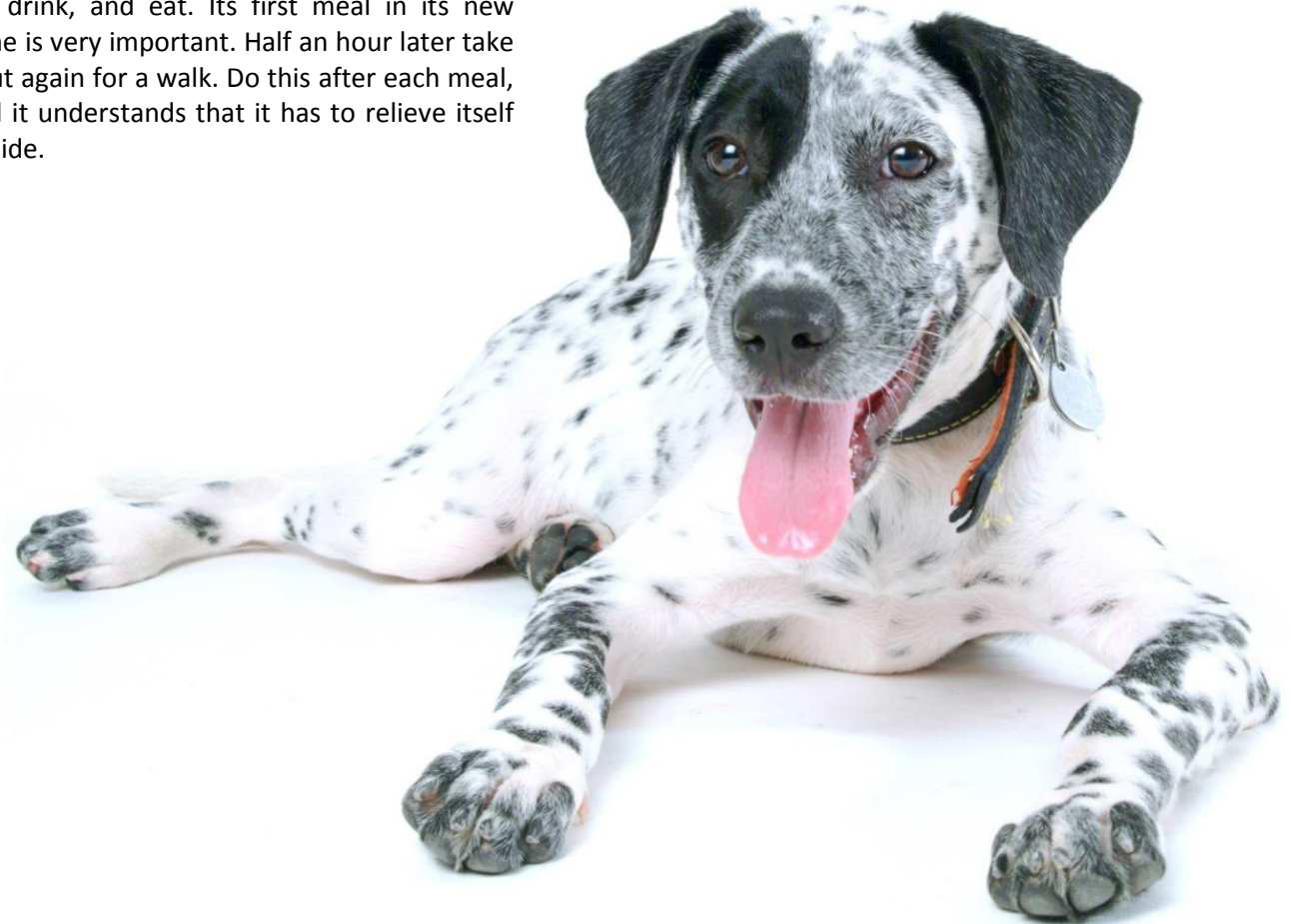
## Adoption day

This is a significant day. It is advisable to hold it on a weekend or vacation so that all the family will be together, and the dog will not be alone during its first days at home.

**Picking up your dog:** Before you take your dog home you will be requested to take care of the bureaucratic details in the reception office and the clinic. At this time you will get a certificate testifying to the spaying or castration of your dog; this certificate will give you a discount for your dog's future rabies vaccinations. In the clinic you will receive a vaccination card and guidance about veterinary care when necessary. Be sure to keep all these documents. It is advisable not to feed the dog before the trip home so that it will not vomit during the trip.

**The trip home:** It is advisable to come with another person who will accompany the driver and sit with the dog in the back seat of the vehicle. Cover the upholstery to prevent any soiling from the dog's feces or vomit. Certain dogs are afraid of riding in cars, so seating them on the floor could help them. Try to ensure that the trip is as calm as possible, without sudden braking and honking. Pet and hug the dog and talk to it in a quiet and calming tone. It's a good idea to open the window for a touch of air, and if the trip is long, stop along the way for a rest stop for the dog to relieve itself and for a chance to run around (on a leash only).

**Coming home:** On arrival, take the dog out for its first encounter with the neighborhood, and only after this take it into your home. Lead the dog into the corner that you chose for it, without overwhelming it with your happiness and hugs. Talk to it calmly and let it sniff the new area. Each time it looks at you, call it by its (new) name so that it will get used to it. Let the dog drink, and eat. Its first meal in its new home is very important. Half an hour later take it out again for a walk. Do this after each meal, until it understands that it has to relieve itself outside.



## Adoption day

**The first night:** Try to tire out the dog so that it will sleep the whole night through, but stop playing with it about an hour before its bedtime. Take its food away for the night and take it out for a walk. Be patient, this is a night of trepidation for the dog.

**Meeting the other animals in the family:** If there is another dog in your home, bring it with you to the adoption center so that the first meeting will take place in neutral territory. Another possibility is to bring both dogs together outside once the new dog arrives, before it first enters your home. Make sure that both are on leashes and let them sniff each other. If they do not get along, separate them until they calm down and try again. Walk with both of them together so that they feel that they are a group and then come back with both of them together to your home (it is preferable that another person be present so that you can control both dogs separately, if necessary). Separate their feeding bowls and take the first dog's toys away. Take care that they don't fight.

If there is a cat in the home, put its food and water on a high place where the dog cannot reach it and leave the cat a way of escaping to a high place, as a shelter, if the dog wants to attack it.

We recommend that you keep a leash on the new dog all the time so that you can easily control it when necessary, and do not let it chase the cat, even in play. Try to distract it with a treat or toy. Both the cat and the dog need to learn each other's boundaries and to respect each other, and it is most important that you keep on top of the situation.

There are cases where both dogs or the cat and dog will get along after a period of adjustment and there are other cases where they will ignore each other forever. In the case of two dogs, one will always be the dominant, which is fine.



## The first days

In the first days you need to teach the dog what is permitted and what is forbidden. Similarly, you need to demonstrate love, and play with it. It is important to discipline the dog, sometimes even rigorously. Do not get angry with it during the adjustment period, but afterwards, when it is testing the boundaries you set for it, don't let it get away with things that you do not accept. For example, if it goes up on the couch and you do not allow that, move it away gently each time that it gets near. Be consistent and patient, in the end it will understand. At the same time, make sure to give positive reinforcement for good behavior that you want to encourage.

**The first trip to the veterinarian:** The first trip to the veterinarian (to the clinic at the Society or at another veterinary clinic) should be arranged according to the directions that you received on the day of adoption. This could be an anxiety-producing experience for the dog, so try to make sure that there is minimal contact with other dogs there.

During treatment, pet the dog and if it objects, do not get angry with it but stop petting it and try again afterwards. Do not forget to bring the documents regarding previous treatments and to take prescriptions when necessary.

**Socializing:** Dogs, especially puppies, need to socialize with other dogs. They teach each other boundaries, they play and have fun together. Try to have your dog meet at least one other dog each day. At first let them sniff each other (with a leash on) and if they get along you can let them play in a safe area, such as a fenced dog park.





# Canine health

**Nutrition:** The dog's diet has a direct effect on its health, therefore it is advisable to buy high quality dog food which will spare your dog health problems and save you expenses on future veterinary treatment. The food should be suited to the dog's age and size according to the directions on the package (there is special food for puppies, adult dogs or dogs over the age of seven years), and not on the salesperson's recommendations at the pet store, since he or she is not a veterinarian.

Dog food contains all the components that a dog needs, therefore you shouldn't give it food from the kitchen. In addition to the health risks in giving regular food, you are also risking that your dog will refuse to eat its dry food. That will complicate your care in the long run and may lead to accumulation of plaque causing tooth decay, bad breath and serious gum disease.

For those wishing to "pamper" their dog with "real food" - please note:

**Recommended food** is: meat, vegetables, fruit, rice and tuna.

**Food that is not recommended** is: spicy food (causes indigestion), dairy products (causes diarrhea), cabbage and cauliflower (cause gas), foods with a lot of sugar, pickles, and fatty foods.

**Foods that are ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN** are ONIONS and CHOCOLATE, which can be life-threatening since dogs don't have the enzyme needed to decompose these foods. Contrary to what people generally believe, it is not

recommended to feed your dog bones - they are likely to break and the sharp ends of the bone can injure and even tear the intestines and the esophagus of the dog. Bones that are recommended for dogs are beef bones containing the marrow, which actually contribute to dental hygiene.

**Feeding habits:** Up to 4 months of age, it is recommended to give the puppy four meals per day, and from six to twelve months, three meals. You should feed an adult dog (from one year old) twice a day at set times and with standard portions, and do not bother it when it is eating. Supply it with fresh water daily, and always clean its food dishes.

**Bathing and grooming:** It is recommended to brush long haired dogs once a day, and short haired dogs at least once a month. If your dog is clean, it does not need regular showers. A shower is recommended once every six months with a special shampoo for keeping the fur clean and cared for. Frequent showers damage the natural protective layers of the dog's skin and even cause increased shedding, dandruff, itching, rashes, skin problems and an unpleasant odor. If there is no choice (for example after a swim in the sea), rinse the fur with water without any shampoo.

**Spaying/castration:** Spaying and castration are serious operations, performed under general anesthetic, with relatively fast recovery rates. These surgical procedures are considered humane and are accepted in the Western world with the purpose of minimizing uncontrolled proliferation of pets, and have many advantages: They prevent disease, extend life expectation, increase quality of life and lessen the level of aggression and chances of running away from the home. In addition, owners of neutered and spayed dogs pay a reduced annual license fee.





# Canine health

**Vaccinations:** Vaccinations are of utmost importance to your dog's health, and keeping to the recommended schedule is vital for creating antibodies and developing the immune system.

**Rabies Vaccinations:** an obligatory vaccine for all dogs over 3 months old against the rabies disease which is contagious also to humans. The vaccination is given once a year. With the first rabies vaccine it is obligatory to insert an electronic chip into the dog, a procedure carried out only once in the dog's life.

**Multivalent Vaccine (dhlpp):** a vaccine that contains protection against 6 contagious diseases (among them also Parvo) that are dangerous for pups and adult dogs. The vaccine is given the first time at the age of 6 to 8 weeks and must be repeated twice after two-week gaps (altogether a series of 3 multivalent Vaccine shots). Afterwards, or in the case of a dog over 1 year old, the vaccine is given once a year.

**Vaccination against Esophagus Worms/Park Worms (Spirocerca Lupi):** in actuality this is not a vaccination but a preventative treatment against fatal worms that invade the dog's body when it swallows an infected dung beetle and can cause death. As this is a preventative treatment, it should be administered once every three months.

**Parvovirus (Canine Parvovirus-cpv) Vaccine:** an inoculation against a common and deadly illness in pups, given only at the age of 6 weeks.

**Parasites:** Dogs suffer from parasites such as fleas, ticks and various worms. They live upon or in the dog, feed off the dog and cause it suffering. Therefore it is important to locate and get rid of them. Fleas and ticks are not only a bothersome aesthetic problem. It is important to remember that in addition to the danger of their being blood suckers, they spread many dangerous diseases to your dogs, some of which are contagious to humans. Regular treatment of all pets and treatment of the yard is the only way to get completely rid of them.

**Treatment for worms:** Treatment for worms is administered by pills or injections. Dogs suffering from worms should be given an injection or a pill, to be repeated after 10 days. This treatment is recommended for all pups. Adult dogs that do not suffer from worms should be given an injection or pill once every six months. Dogs suffering from worms tend to itch on their hindquarters and therefore it is important to pay attention to this, as well as to discovering worms in the feces.

**Preventive treatment for fleas:** ampoules/spray once a month. The contents of the ampoules should be sprinkled on the skin at the nape of the dog's neck or between the shoulder blades (where the animal cannot reach with its tongue), making sure that the skin is dry before application. The liquid is absorbed by way of the skin into the blood and provides protection against fleas for a month. After washing the dog, the procedure should be repeated 3-4 days after the bath. Treatment should be given once a month throughout the year, and it is important to adjust the dosage according to the age and weight of the dog, in order to prevent poisoning.

**Preventive treatment for ticks:** during the spring and summer months it is advisable to put an anti-ticks collar on the dog. The collar is effective for 4 to 6 months. Try not to get the collar wet, and be careful to wash hands after touching it.



# Laws

In Israel there are a number of laws concerning the ownership and care of dogs, including:

**Microchips:** The chip is actually the dog's ID card. It contains the owner's details, allowing them to be located in case the dog is lost or runs away. If you decide to transfer the ownership of the dog to someone else, it is very important to transfer it in an orderly fashion and to report it to the Veterinary Department of the local municipality so that they can update the Microchip Center.

In this way you can avoid being fined for a dog that is no longer yours. Under certain circumstances, if the details on the chip do not correspond with the person's caring for it, the veterinarian cannot treat it. For your information, all the dogs that are given out for adoption from the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Israel, Tel Aviv-Yafo, have microchips.

**A leash:** Dogs must be on leashes when they are taken for a walk outside the home, with the exception of special parks and other places that are provided by local authorities and where it is permitted to let dogs run loose. The leash is vital in cases where a dog runs into the street or disappears. Experience teaches that this also happens to those who think that their dog is completely obedient and definitely will stay near its owner or will find its own way home.

**Collection of feces:** When the dog is taken for a walk to relieve itself, its feces must be collected.

**Muzzle:** Dogs that are considered dangerous according to law must be muzzled when outside the home.



# Children and dogs

## **When a baby joins a family with a dog:**

When a new baby is about to join the family, it is important to accustom the dog to the new situation before the birth of the baby. In order to succeed in this mission, the dog must be inoculated as necessary and trained enough to obey you unconditionally. Pull the dog's hair, for example, to get it used to what the baby might do, and if possible, bring it a blanket from the hospital which the baby had been wrapped in and let it sniff it and get used to the baby's odor.

It is important that the dog sits calmly next to the baby; it is also possible to forbid it to enter the baby's room. You should teach it to ignore the baby's crying so that it will not bark, and you should give it positive reinforcement. Many dogs help with raising a baby and warn the parents if something is not in order, but it is forbidden under any circumstances to allow the dog to be possessive of the baby or of its food or toys.

The dog has to understand its position in the new hierarchy in the home, therefore when you enter your home pay attention first to the baby and only afterwards to the dog. While out walking let the dog walk after the carriage and not in front of it. At any rate, always watch the dog and the baby, together and separately.

## **When a dog joins a family with children:**

For many children, the family pet is their best friend - a companion that gives unconditional love and which helps children develop responsibility, self-confidence, sensitivity to others and the ability to receive and give emotionally. Also cats, rabbits, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, little birds and even fish can be successful pets when they are appropriately cared for. The correct way to turn an animal into a loving pet is to relate to it as a member of the family that is dependent on the rest of the members for its existence and happiness. It is not enough to bring one home "for the children", and it is important that everyone understands that this is not some temporary situation.

Most experts recommend introducing an animal to the home only after the child is at least six years old, but the appropriate timing is dependent on the level of maturity of the child, and you, the parents, are the best judges of that. A primary condition of readiness in a child is his ability to control himself and to obey the word "no". If you are in doubt, let the child meet the pets of friends, and pay attention to his behavior.



**Children and pups:** Many families with small children choose to adopt a puppy, being under the impression that it will be easier to raise and care for, and more suitable for the children. This is not always correct—puppies are more fragile, they need more attention and care, and they tend to scratch and bite while playing. Sometimes the most appropriate choice is a mature, calm, patient dog that is used to children. Consult with an expert (a veterinarian, trainer or adoption counselor) before you decide which dog is the most appropriate for your family.

Contrary to common belief, the level of suitability of dogs to children is not only dependent on the breed, but primarily on the training and care that it received and is receiving. A dog that is cared for with love and respect, which is neutered and trained and all its physical needs are met, is the most suitable.

To attain maximum protection for your children and your pet, it is very important that there is adult supervision when they are together. It is just as important to help your children understand how the world looks from the animal's point of view, so that they will relate to them with the appropriate caution and respect.

# Puppies

Puppies are, of course, amazingly cute, but they require an investment of much time, patience and attention. If you cannot provide them with this, do not be enticed to adopt a puppy, even if it is really adorable and the children are begging you. If you have decided that you want and are willing to provide the puppy with all that it needs, here are some tips that will help you.

**Sleep:** The age that is recommended for adoption of a puppy is 8 weeks old. When it comes into your home it will of course be frightened and will miss its mother and siblings, especially during the first nights. To make it easier on the pup, especially during winter, it is possible to warm up a pillow or a hot water bottle wrapped in a cloth or towel.

**Nutrition:** A puppy needs richer and more food than does a mature dog. Choose a food that is meant for puppies, and keep a regular feeding schedule (preferably at your meal times). Until the puppy is six months old it is recommended to feed it 4 meals a day, from half a year until a year, 3 meals, from one year old, 2 meals.

**Bathing:** It is recommended not to bathe the puppy in its first months of life. Frequent showers damage the natural protective layer of its skin and even cause increased shedding, skin ailments and an unpleasant odor. Brushing the fur is certainly enough to keep the puppy's hair clean.

**House training:** The young puppy does not know that it must relieve itself outside the home, and it is still difficult for it to contain itself. Prepare a temporary toilet corner for it, and do not scold it at all if it urinates in another spot in the house. Similarly, try to take it out for a walk as many times as possible, especially at night, early in the morning and after each of its meals. Each time that the puppy relieves itself outside, praise it.

**Toys:** For a puppy, play means biting and chewing things. In order to prevent it from destroying objects in your home, supply it with alternatives in the form of chewable toys, dog snacks that are not made of dried leather and others. Keep it away from valuables and objects that are likely to constitute danger, such as cleaning products, electric wires, bags and small toys that it could choke on, sharp objects and even certain plants that are very poisonous for dogs (for example, Spurge (Euphoria), Oleander, tubers and onions).

**Training:** Train the puppy from an early age so that it will grow up to have a calm disposition and get along well in the home and with the family. Just like young children, puppies learn faster than adult dogs, and this is an excellent opportunity to help them develop good habits.

**Puppies and children:** Set a number of rules for the interaction between the puppy and the children, so that they will not accidentally hurt each other. Explain to the children that the puppy is not a toy and that we have to be careful and gentle with it, to pet it and be sure not to shout near it, since its hearing is much more sensitive than that of humans. Soon they will become the best of friends.





# Training

In our experience, owners who abandon their dogs and bring them to us, as well as those who adopted a dog from us and decided to return it, do this as a result of behavioral problems. It is important to know that most behavioral problems in dogs can be resolved through training, and by a small investment of time and money it is possible to prevent the distress that is caused both to the dog and the owners.

The goal of training is to improve communications between the person and the dog. Since we want to teach the dog what is permitted and what is forbidden, it is up to us to make sure that it will be capable of paying attention and obeying us. Dogs that do not obey their owners are likely to cause great damage to themselves (to get run over or wounded) or to their environment (to bite someone).

There are private trainers and training schools that offer a structured training plan (mostly basic or advanced training). Some offer to build a personal program geared to the needs of the owners and the dog. Among the many methods of training dogs, no single one is better than the rest. They are all based on the same basic rules: to teach it to listen to you, for you to be attentive to it and to domesticate it in accordance with the required behavioral rules in your house. There are some basic commands such as sit, lie down, come, etc., without which no dog will listen to its owners nor will it be considered trained, and there are additional advanced commands that you can teach your dog.

For a dog to learn something and repeat the desired behavior, it must be given reinforcement. There are training methods based upon positive reinforcement (rewarding the dog for every correct action that he carries out, for instance a pleasant tone of voice, a treat, toy, smile or petting) and others on negative reinforcement (punishment for mistakes). In order to cause the dog not to repeat undesired behavior, it must be corrected. Correction is an action unpleasant for the dog, such as a raised and assertive voice, pulling on the collar or leash, a loud noise or being sprayed with water.

Don't wait for problems that require training to arise, since by that stage they may have taken root with the dog and your patience will face a tough trial. It is not always possible to anticipate the dog's behavior in a new house, and the behavior of the friendly dog you met in the Society may surprise you. Therefore, the training process should be started from the dog's first days at home. If you adopted a purebred dog, there are traits and problems that characterize each breed. Many problems are resolved after a short period of adjustment, but in any case it is worthwhile training your dog in order to solve those problems and to improve communications between you.



# Training

Following are a number of problems common in dogs and tips for dealing with them when they occur. If the problem is not resolved, consult a professional trainer.

**Housetraining:** When the dog relieves itself at home or in the hallways, set up a consistent daily schedule where it will eat and immediately afterwards will be taken out for a walk to relieve itself. At the same time, demonstrate that you are angry at the moment it relieves itself indoors.

**Chewing up and destruction:** This is a very common problem amongst puppies that are teething, or dogs that are left alone and are "taking revenge" on their owners who abandoned them. Allow your dog to exert energy, provide it with substitutes to chew, and spray the items that it is used to chewing up with a spray that has a bitter taste and which is specially for this purpose (available in pet stores).

**Separation anxiety:** When the dog is afraid of staying alone you have to make it more independent. Each time leave it alone for a longer period, even if you are only in the next room or are leaving the house for a few minutes. An additional solution is to confuse the dog with a change in your schedule or your habits. For example, act as if you are about to leave the house, take the keys, put on a coat, or any other action that the dog recognizes and identifies, but afterwards stay home.

**Biting:** When the dog has a habit of biting while playing, do not allow the dog to play with its mouth. It should be rebuked, toys linked with biting should be withheld (like rope), or put bitter spray on your hand. In cases where the dog is aggressive and is in the habit of biting, the root of the problem needs to be investigated, and it is advisable to seek the assistance of a professional trainer.

**Eating feces:** Dogs who tend to eat feces are mostly those that are fed only dry food. In such cases, try to spray the feces with a bitter tasting spray, or let the dog eat "regular" food.

**Excessive barking:** A common problem with guard dogs or small dogs. If the problem is territorial, quiet the dog immediately. If it continues to bark, punish it. If the reason for the behavior is fear, bolster the dog's feelings of security with a game or training to obey commands, and have the dog play with dogs that it knows. If the dog is afraid of a certain object, bring the object into the dog's everyday environment and ignore its barking.

**Stealing:** If the dog steals food from the table or shoes, reprimand it at that moment and punish it (for example, distance it from the table). Another possibility is to associate an unpleasant experience with the action. For instance, if the dog tends to take a particular item each time, attach a plastic cup of water to the item so that the water will spill on the dog when pulled.

**Fear of noise:** If the dog is fearful of the noise of fireworks, sirens and alarms, fight your instinct to pet and calm it - thus reinforcing its fear - and simply ignore it.

Remember! The name of the game in training is patience. You have to be patient until the dog is trained, and you need to repeat the same things over and over until the dog internalizes them. It is important that the dog also learns to be patient and to know how to wait for the things it likes - such as food, toys and walks - and know how to restrain itself.



# A dog gets lost

**Many dog owners are unaware of the enormous number of dogs that get lost and of the dangers awaiting them. We in the SPCA have to deal with this prevalent phenomenon daily, when stray dogs are brought in to us (some abandoned by their owners and some who went astray) and dog owners come looking for their lost dogs. In order to avoid this distress, we present ten means of prevention, that adherence to them will greatly minimize the chances of your dog getting lost.**

**1.** As required by Law, always ensure that your dog is on its leash when you take it out of the house. Our experience has taught us that even dog owners who swear that their dogs are trained, educated and obey their orders are surprised to discover that their dogs began to run away and left them when following some stimulus. Please don't take a risk, and use the leash. Thus you will obey the Law, keep your dog safe and protect other people and animals.

**2.** Another law which many dog-owners don't always abide by is the microchip requirement. The microchip is of utmost importance and its presence can often be the deciding factor between your seeing your dog again or not, should it get lost.

**3.** On many occasions the National Microchip Center does not have updated data regarding the dog or its owners. Therefore we recommend verifying that all the details are up-to-date in the National Microchip Center ([www.vtr.moag.gov.il](http://www.vtr.moag.gov.il)) and also in the app. "ma'agar clavim".

**4.** Ensure that there is a tag attached to the dog's collar with your updated details and telephone number. This tag will save you time searching and the precious time of the person who finds your dog.

**5.** It is worthwhile taking photos of your dog from time to time, ensuring that special identifying marks (if there are any) appear in the photo. Should the dog get lost, an updated photo will be useful, both for preparing a notice and to prove ownership of the dog.

**6.** Spaying or neutering will reduce the risk of your dog running away. A neutered dog, for example, will not run after a bitch in heat and lose his way home. It is clear that these operations have many health advantages, and we encourage them in order to prevent uncontrolled proliferation of unwanted puppies that will have a hard time finding homes.



**7.** Dogs are social animals that need the company of their own type and people. Boredom is one of the reasons that dogs run away and so it is advisable not to leave your dog alone at home for too many hours a day, to provide toys and games and to leave a radio on. When you take it out for a walk, after many hours at home, make it a long walk. Let your dog exert pent-up energy, it needs it.

**8.** You know your dog well and know what it is capable of. In order to prevent it running away, make sure the door is kept shut (and locked if the dog knows how to open doors) and that there are no other avenues of escape that might tempt the dog to go out. Be aware that the dog might run away and make sure that the rest of the family is also aware of this.

**9.** Moving house may be bewildering for your dog and cause it to want to return to its old home. In such cases, adhere strictly to the directions in the previous paragraph, and in addition, during the first while after moving house, take the dog for long walks in the new neighborhood (on a leash!) and allow it to become familiar with its surroundings.

**10.** Reinforce the connection between you and your dog. Dogs need a leader who will establish boundaries and teach it what is allowed and what is prohibited. If your dog knows how to pay attention and to obey you, communications between you will improve and the chances of it trying to escape will lessen.