



DOG ADOPTION DAY STARTER GUIDE

Give your new best friend
the welcome they deserve

WHAT'S INSIDE:

New dog checklist
Activities for the day
Questions to consider

ADOPTION DAY CHECKLIST

Ready to bring home a new best friend from the shelter? Here's what you'll need to have ready.



GET READY TO WAIT IN LINE

Adoption events can get fairly busy, so here are some items that can help make the wait a little less stressful:

- **Sunscreen** in case the sun beats down
- **Umbrella** in the event of rain
- **A charged phone** and portable battery charger
- **Comfortable shoes** should you have to stand for a while
- **Entertainment** for you or your children
- **A leash or cat carrier** in case the shelter does not have one for you
- **Proper paperwork, ID, etc.** Every shelter has its own adoption requirements and registration fees, so call or visit online beforehand to skip any unwanted surprises



PREPARE YOUR HOME AND FAMILY FOR THE NEW ADDITION

Discuss these questions ahead of time so everyone can give the new pet a warm welcome:

- Which family members will feed, walk & bathe the pet?
- Do the kids know how to treat a new pet gently?
- Will a new pet be an issue with a landlord or roommate?
- How might other pets in the house be affected?
- Are there any areas of the home where the pet shouldn't be allowed?
- Is anyone in the home allergic to fur or saliva?



HAVE A VETERINARIAN READY

Once your new friend is home, you're sure to have some questions about vaccinations, nutritional recommendations and other health issues. If you don't have a trusted veterinarian already, there's no better time to find one near you so you can schedule an appointment early.

GIVE YOUR NEW PET A FAMILIAR TASTE

Quality nutrition is key to a happy, healthy life. Try to continue feeding the food your pet ate at the shelter, or change pet foods gradually to avoid an unnecessary (and possibly messy) stomach upset.

GET THE RIGHT MINDSET

Adopting a pet is exciting, but it's also a responsibility. Remember that it will take time for your new friend to feel comfortable, and a little patience can evolve into a lot of love and happiness over the years. Have fun, and happy adopting!



QUESTIONS YOU MAY BE ASKED WHEN ADOPTING A DOG

Every pet shelter has its own set of adoption requirements, but there are a lot of common questions they tend to ask to make sure you and your new pet will get along well. Here are some questions you should be ready to answer to make sure your adoption day goes smoothly.

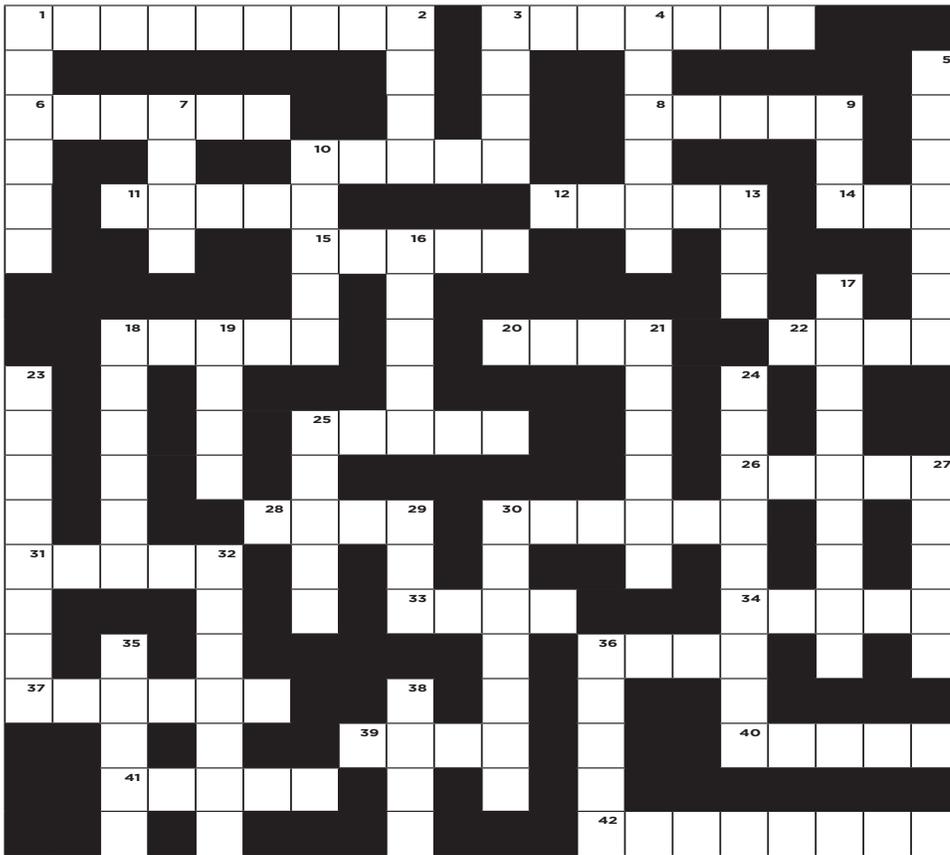
- **Is this your first time adopting or owning a dog?** Inexperienced dog owners often are not sure what questions to ask or what to expect. You may also be asked if you've had to return an adopted pet in the past.
- **What is your housing situation (e.g., single-family home, townhouse, condo, apartment)?** Some dogs need more space to move around than others. You may also be asked if you have a fenced-in backyard or easy access to a dog park.
- **Do you currently: own, rent, or live with a relative/friend?** Landlords and roommates may have strong opinions about pets living on their property. Sometimes they will be contacted to verify that it is acceptable to have a dog, so make sure to have their contact information ready and available.
- **How old are the people living with your new dog?** Young children may not yet know how to be gentle with a new dog, especially during the excitement of the first few days. Conversely, older senior citizens may not be able to handle the energy of a younger dog. It's helpful to bring these people with you on adoption day if possible to get a sense of how they interact with the new dog.
- **Will this dog live with other pets (e.g., dog, cat, bird, etc.)?** It's important to know the temperament of your current pets so you can be sure your new addition is a good match. Other pets may become aggressive or threatened with a new dog around the house.
- **How flexible is your budget?** Dogs tend to have their own expenses, including food, supplies, and toys. In case your new dog has special needs or health issues, are you financially prepared to handle them?
- **How much time do you think you'll be able to spend with your dog each day?** If you're out of the home a lot, you'll probably want to plan for a way to keep your dog from becoming lonely. You might be asked about your work schedule to help the shelter worker understand how long the dog may spend each day at home alone.
- **Are there any pet behaviors you will not tolerate?** Bad habits take time to handle, so if chewing, barking, etc. is unacceptable in your home, the best time to mention it is during adoption.
- **Would you adopt a dog with pre-diagnosed health conditions?** This does not necessarily mean that this dog will not be great to adopt — it just means they may require special attention or care.

REMEMBER TO COME IN WITH THE RIGHT MINDSET

With all the excitement and anxiety that comes with the first few days, accidents may happen, so be patient with your dog as they learn their new role in the family. Proper nutrition and regular vet visits can go a long way in helping keep a dog happy and healthy, so be sure to schedule your vet visit right away.

CAN'T WAIT TO MAKE A NEW CONNECTION?

See if you can answer all of the pet-related clues below.



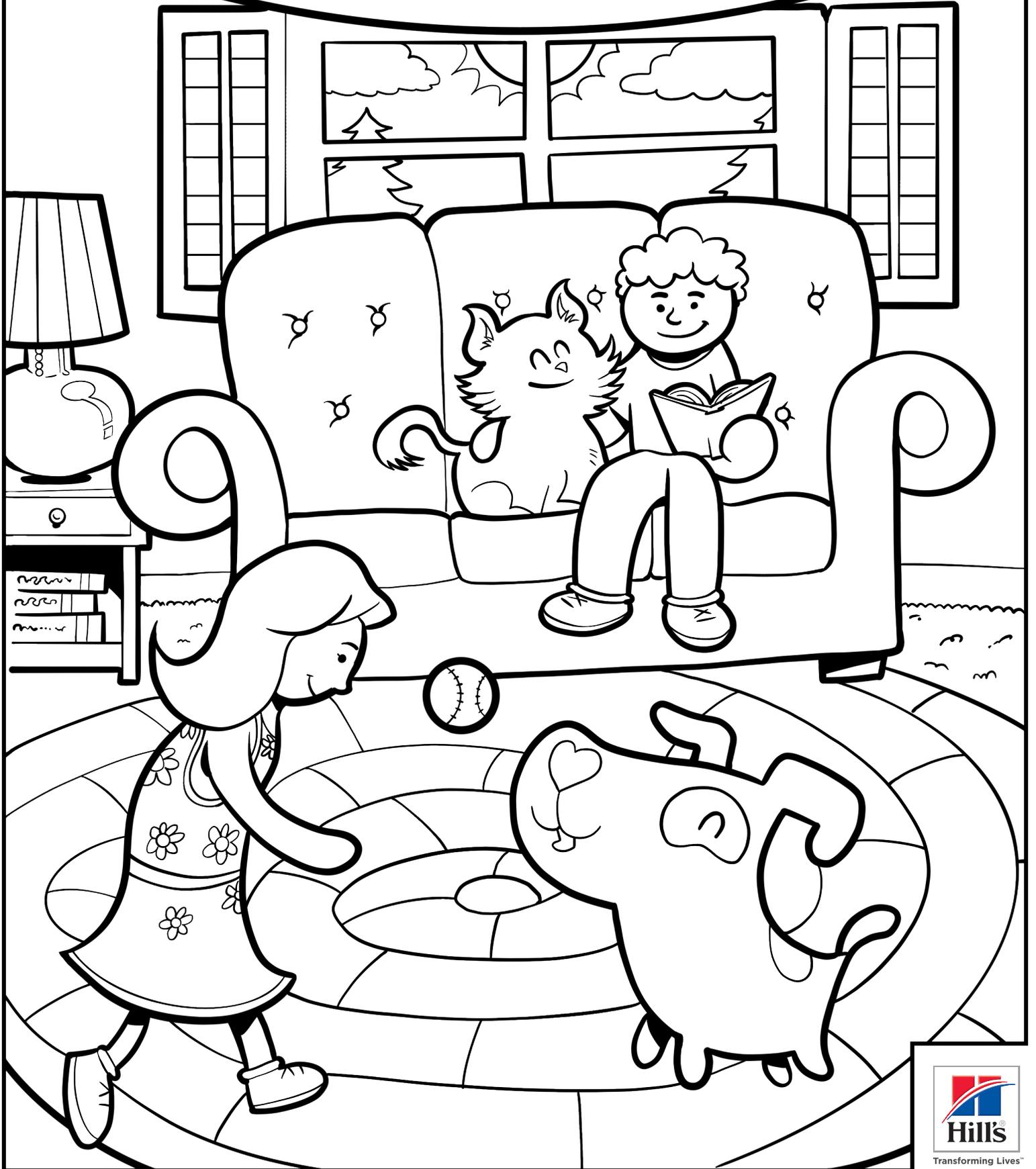
DOWN

1. Ballpark food, or pup lying in the sun
2. How many lives a cat supposedly has
3. Lose excess fur to a pet
4. Runt of the _____, baby group of pets
5. Young cats
7. "Who's a _____ boy?" to a dog
9. Play bite to a puppy or kitten
10. Place dogs like to be scratched
13. Plaything to a dog
16. To bring home a pet from a shelter
17. Dog breed often found at fire stations
18. Jump on prey to a cat
19. A mouse to a cat
21. Dry piece of pet food
23. A cat's mustache
24. Helps owner find a lost pet
25. Bugs that can make pets itch
27. Animal dogs might herd
29. Bow _____
30. Group of cats
32. Place to take your pup to run around
35. Guide dog _____ its owner get around
36. Daily strolls to a dog
38. Container pets eat out of

ACROSS

1. Holiday associated with black cats
3. Place to adopt a pet
6. Cat got your _____?
8. To teach a pet, for example
10. A beagle is a type of dog _____
11. In the dog _____, in trouble for example
12. Reward for a pet
14. Gently stroke a dog or cat
15. Item to help you walk a dog
18. Baby dog
20. Common dog sound
22. Dog's tail moves back and forth
25. Game you play with a dog
26. Cat's nails
28. Common cat sound
30. Goes around a pet's neck
31. "Make biscuits" to a cat, for example
33. Another word for a dog's bark
34. To have a dog run after you
36. To bathe a pet, for example
37. Activity a dog spends most of day doing
39. Knick-knack paddywhack give a dog a _____
40. Dog's stance, signal to a hunter
41. Cat's motor sounds
42. German _____, common dog breed

WELCOME HOME!



LOOKING FOR ANSWERS?

Check below for help.

ACROSS

1. Halloween
3. Shelter
6. Tongue
8. Train
10. Breed
11. House
12. Treat
14. Pet
15. Leash
18. Puppy
20. Bark
22. Wags
25. Fetch
26. Claws
28. Meow
30. Collar
31. Knead
33. Woof
34. Chase
36. Wash
37. Sleeps
39. Bone
40. Point
41. Purrs
42. Shepherd

DOWN

1. Hotdog
2. Nine
3. Shed
4. Litter
5. Kittens
7. Good
9. Nip
10. Belly
13. Toy
16. Adopt
17. Dalmatian
18. Pounce
19. Prey
21. Kibble
23. Whiskers
24. Microchip
25. Fleas
27. Sheep
29. Wow
30. Clowder
32. Dogpark
35. Helps
36. Walks
38. Bowl