



We put a twinkle in your eye, a smile on your face, a song in your heart, skills in your hands, so that the time with your family dog will be some of the best times of your life.

cheerfuldogs chronicles

cheerful dogs, happy people

Issue 1

A World of Dogs: Why Adopt From A Shelter?

At the big-picture level, there are many good reasons to consider adopting a dog from a shelter. You save a life, for one thing. Far too many healthy and behaviourally sound animals, dogs included, are given up to shelters every year because of overbreeding and lack of resources to look after them for more than short periods of time. So, when you bring home a dog from a shelter, you help break the cycle of

pet overpopulation and ensure that you don't unwittingly support puppy mills or other mass breeding facilities. That's the 20,000-foot view.



I have to ask ... am I adopted?



Dog in the Spotlight: Smooth Fox Terrier

This quick, bright, tenacious little rascal was, as the name indicates, bred for fox hunting. If you want your Smooth to be happy and polite, give him lots of attention, exercise, and fun activities to engage that active mind.



cont.

....why adopt from a shelter?

But there are many closer-to-home reasons to visit your local shelter, too. For example, shelters usually have a greater variety of dogs—specific breeds, marvelous and mysterious mutts, puppies, youngsters, adults. Most facilities also do thorough health checks and behavior screening. They vaccinate, spay or neuter, and microchip dogs before they put them up for adoption, adding up to a great bargain for you.

Beyond that, consider that many of the dogs who end up in shelters do so only because of unfortunate circumstances. Their guardians took ill or died, or had to move for work to a place that doesn't allow pets. Someone in the family developed severe allergies or perhaps were overwhelmed caring for a new baby or sick relative. Or maybe financial circumstances changed to the point where providing for a dog was no longer possible. These and many other twists of human fate land dogs in shelters every day. Which is why certain dogs up for adoption from shelters could be healthy, affectionate, and well socialized, with the basic training and cooperative skills needed for harmonious family life.

All this makes adoption a potential triple-win situation. A dog gets a loving home, you get a great four-legged buddy, and a complex problem is reduced by a factor of one. The key to reaching this happy state, however, is to think like a matchmaker when visiting the local shelter. Don't drown in the first pair of pleading eyes. Factor in lifestyle and temperament compatibility and you drastically increase the chances of a happy, life-long relationship.



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Tips & Tools: What to do if a dog is choking

Always put safety first. A choking animal will panic and may bite or struggle. Proceed carefully and restrain the dog (no muzzle, though).

Step 1. Look, locate, remove. If you see the object, remove it with your fingers or use a flat spoon to pry it away from the teeth. If you don't see it, do the following:

Step 2. Small dog. Pick the dog up by his thighs and gently shake and swing it. If that doesn't work, apply pressure to the stomach right behind the ribcage.

Step 2. Large dog. Do the equivalent of a Heimlich manoeuvre. With the dog standing, put your arms around his belly, make a fist and push firmly upward just behind the ribcage. If the dog is unconscious, you can put one hand on the back for support and use the other to squeeze his belly upwards and forwards.

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Website: cheerfuldogswalking.com

Tel: 9630 3884

Email: cheerfuldogswalking@gmail.com

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