

Information for New Adopter WCBR



West Coast Boxer Rescue

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WEST COAST BOXER RESCUE

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New Adopters

Congratulations on your decision to adopt your new family member. As you bring your new member home, we would like to suggest a few things to consider and keep in mind:

Try and put yourself in the place of the new dog and think about how you would feel if you were in a home where:

- You do not know a single person
- You don't know where their food is
- You don't know where to sleep
- You don't know where or how to tell someone you need to go potty
- You do not have a clue of what is expected of you



Now you have just a little idea of how these dogs must feel when they are new at your home. So, please be patient and kind while they adjust into their new home.

Before You Adopt

Please let us back up for a moment because this is important. We ask that you don't make a spontaneous decision and adopt a dog. Having a dog is a commitment. Think of where you may be 5 to 10 years from now. You may have time in your life now, but what about when your career takes off or your family grows? Would you be able to keep your commitment to the dog you are adopting? If you move, are you committed to finding a home where they accept dogs? A Boxer's life expectancy is anywhere from 7 to 14 years. If you are adopting a young dog, can you commit to this dog for 14 years? What about when the dog gets old and weak, and they are not little cute puppies anymore? Would you be able to give them the love and care that they deserve for the rest of their life? If you are unsure, it's not too late to change your mind. You can come back and adopt once you are ready. Adopting a dog is just like adopting a child. It's not ok to abandon your dog just because your life's circumstances have changed. A rescue dog has been abandoned once already, so please make sure your commitment is for their lifetime.



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Choosing Your Dog

We all have our ideals of what a Boxer should be like. But when choosing a dog, please make your choice based on temperament, personality and the energy level of the dog. Please keep in mind, we do not adopt a female dog to a household that already has a female dog. If you are an older couple, not as active as you used to be, a one year old dog may be too much. Or if you have small children a young dog may knock them over. We know most people want younger dogs so they can be with us for a long, long time. Most of us have experienced the heartbreak and devastation of losing our close companion and our friend. But please consider this fact, a one year old is rambunctious and may need a more active family. Please consider the fact that adult dogs 3 years or older are as trainable as the young ones. They no longer have the puppy nipping or the need to chew on your furniture, shoes, etc. They are generally calmer than 1 year olds and will settle down much quicker. Please think about what it is that you need as well as what the dog needs prior to making a decision. If you are unsure, you may want to consider fostering few dogs prior to jumping straight into adoption to gain valuable Boxer experience. If you are considering adopting a young puppy, please read Appendix I regarding specific care and guidelines for puppies.

Adjustment Phase and Expectations

Some anxiety when they are new at your home is to be expected. Every dog is different, but just like humans all dogs need an adjustment period in a new environment. An adjustment period can take a few weeks to a few months. Some dogs will be fearful. Others will be anxious. Some may have physical issues such as a lack of appetite and/or diarrhea. Boxers are known



for their sensitive digestive systems. Every new dog and family needs an adjustment period. Please be patient and don't give up in the first few days. The first week can be the most difficult time. From then on it will get easier with proper guidance and training. Please remember, no dog is perfect, just like no human is perfect.

Please treat your new dog with love and respect, but also make sure to establish guidelines and leadership. The dog needs to understand that, in order for them to do



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well in your home they need to follow your rules. The sooner they understand it the easier it will be for everyone involved.

Your new dog does not understand that your home is their new home. Because of this they may try to escape. They may be having fun playing with you and your family, then all of a sudden start missing their previous owner and try to escape to go back home. Keep an eye on your new dog when they go outside. In the first few weeks to few months, you should go out with your dog when they go outside to eliminate in the yard and bring them inside with you.

If you are having a lot of people coming in and out of your home, put your dog in a safe place so he doesn't dash out of the front door. Another option here is to install a doggie gate/barrier for the front door so that in order for a dog to escape they have to go through two doors. If you have children, work with your children to not open doors without your supervision. It only takes a second to jump the fence or dash out of the door.

Make certain you have an ID tag on your dog at ALL TIMES. A West Coast Boxer Rescue ID tag is provided to you with adoption. You may opt to purchase your own tag at your local Pet Store. If you do, ensure both your home and mobile numbers are listed as contacts. Check your dog's tag often to make sure the engraving has not been scratched off and the phone number is still readable and current.

All West Coast Boxer Rescue dogs come with a Microchip. You are responsible for registering the microchip. Microchip information is provided to you along with the adoption agreement. Please follow the instructions in Appendix III to register your dog's microchip. If your dog is ever missing, contact the microchip company immediately. Veterinary offices as well as animal shelters have scanners that can read a microchip to track down who the dogs belong with.

If your dog has been spayed or neutered within the last week or two, please monitor the suture site for any inflammation or infection. Do not let them lick the suture site. Put a cone on if the dog insists on licking and give them a firm no when they try to do so. Licking will result in infection. If the dog has undissolvable stitches please get them removed by a veterinarian or authorized West Coast Boxer Rescue representative.

Although all West Coast Boxer Rescue dogs receive a Bordetella vaccination, your dog may come down with kennel cough. Kennel cough in dogs is like a cold or flu in humans. The vaccination does not cover all strains. If kennel cough is suspected, we can mail you antibiotics. The antibiotics prevent the kennel cough turning into pneumonia. It does not treat the actual kennel cough. If your dog is lethargic and not eating and drinking, please take them to a veterinarian. If kennel cough occurs within 10



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days of your adoption and if it requires veterinarian visit, West Coast Boxer Rescue may be able to assist with the cost, however, it will require prior approval. Please contact your adoption coordinator immediately if you suspect your dog has kennel cough.

Children

Young children and dog interaction needs to be supervised 100% of the time to ensure the safety of the both. Young, untrained Boxers in general are prone to jumping up on children. The dog can easily knock the child over. Most rescue Boxers are generally not very well trained. Keep in mind, that your new dog does not know your children. You **CANNOT** expect your dog to be OK when your children pokes the dog, tugs on its ears, feet and tail, or jumps or falls on the dog. Yes, Boxers are known to be great with children, but it is best to err on the cautious side for all parties involved when they don't know each other.



Other Dogs



Dog / dog interaction must be supervised 100% at the beginning until they are OK with each other's presence. This could mean a few hours, a few days, a few weeks or a few months, depending on the personality of the dog. Please think of them like a toddler or child. If they get excited they are prone to get into a fight until they get to know each other well. If they are playing too rough, separate them once in a while and calm them down. The more excited they become, the less control they have. Excitement can escalate during play, or over food or toys. Do

separate them when they are being fed. Do not leave chew toys or other items that they can fight over. A new dog can be fed in a crate, away from other dogs.



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Other Animals

Interaction with other animals in the household such as cats, small dogs, birds, rabbits, etc. must be monitored at all times until you are sure they are ok on their own. Some dogs have a very high prey drive. Most Boxers are energetic and may want to play with small animals. As much as we evaluate dogs for prey drives, etc. no evaluation is 100%. With a new dog and small animals in the household, their interaction must be supervised 100% of the time at the beginning to make sure they are safe. When they cannot be supervised they must be separated so no accidents can occur. A certain amount of correction will always be needed for a Boxer to co-exist with cats and other animals, so please don't expect perfection from the start. It takes work for them to understand and respect each other.



Establishing Leadership

What does it mean to establish leadership? There are many ways of saying this. Some says to be an alpha, dominant or to be the leader of the pack. They are kind of similar. What we need to do is to try to communicate to the dog, that they need to listen and abide by the rules people set. In order for a dog to succeed in this world, they need to be able to listen to people. So how is this accomplished? They don't understand our words! We'd like to recommend the "Nothing is Free" program below. It does take patience, persistence and consistency, but the result is worth all the work you put in.

Nothing is Free Program

Working with dogs is much like working with children. If you give your children all the candy, toys and money they want for free, they will grow up spoiled, right? Well, the same goes for the dogs. So what do we want to do? We want to make them work for what they want and earn it! Before you feed your dogs, put them in a sit stay or down stay. When the dogs obey, give them praises and their food. If a dog wants a ball tossed, make him earn it too. You could use sit, shake, high five, or whatever else you are currently working on at that time. They will quickly understand that by listening to you, they are given what they want. When you take your dog for a walk, you can teach him the wait command at the door. By doing so, your dog will learn to not dash out of the door when they are going out. You can issue a release command, and the dog gets rewarded by going outside. Be creative with your training and make it a rewarding exercise for dog as well as human. It's fun to train! Find out what your dog is motivated



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by – is it food, toys, or praises? The more you understand them, the easier the training will become.

Basic Obedience Training

Obedience class is a great way to learn how to work with your dog, and also establish a bond with your dog. It also teaches them good manners, which will make it a pleasure to have your dog with you. If you are looking for a training class, make sure it uses positive reinforcement or reward base technic (more about this below). Make sure the trainers have good reviews. You can go to a website like Yelp to check on their reputation. Finally, if you go to their class, and the trainer is not to your liking because you feel that your dog or you are not treated well, then by all means switch to another class or fire him/her and begin another one. It's important that you and your dog can trust the trainer. Training should be a positive experience, not a negative one. Not all trainers are created equal. Please speak with your adoption coordinator for trainer recommendation.

Positive Reinforcement Training

Dogs learn good behavior by being rewarded for doing well. Positive reinforcement trainers often use verbal cues, hand signals, treats, clickers, toys, and even games to help modify behavior, correct bad habits, and even to teach tricks. Trainers use both positive reinforcement (giving rewards) and negative punishment (taking away rewards.) We are not saying never to say NO. However, by training this way most of the time you can establish a lifelong deep bond with your companion dog. They are like children – if they like you and respect you, they are a lot more likely to listen to you than the other way around. Of course, there is no cookie cutter approach to shaping a dog's behavior. Every dog is different, just like every human is. And just like no human is perfect, dogs aren't either.





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Consistency

Be clear with what acceptable and what not acceptable behavior is. Let them know by a NO right away when a behavior is not acceptable, and lots of praise when they do the right thing. Telling a NO to a dog is not mean. NO should always be calm, gentle and stern. You cannot tell you dog it is sometimes OK, and sometimes it's not. The answer should be the same always. Be patient with you dog, as it will take repetition for the dog to understand what you mean.

Here is an example of consistency: The dog may have been allowed to get on the couch or bed in their previous home. If this is not acceptable – let them know immediately by telling them NO when they start to get up on the furniture. Push them gently away from the couch. Praise them when they get off the couch to let them know they are doing well. Most behaviors are correctable with effort on the new owner's part. If you need guidance, there are dog trainers and behaviorists and we can also help. Contact your adoption coordinator as soon as possible.

House Training

House breaking or potty training is not rocket science. Anyone can do it with a little bit of diligence. House training an adult dog is generally a little easier than a puppy, as an adult dog has better bladder control.

When bringing in a dog with an unknown history, start by taking the dog to the yard, or take them for a walk if you don't have a yard. Wait for the dog to eliminate, give them lots of praises and treats, and then bring them inside the house. When they are inside the house, let them drag a light weight leash, and supervise them 100% of the time. The sign you are looking for, is the dog sniffing the floor and circling, which is generally the sign before they eliminate. As soon as you see the sign, pick up



the leash and take them to go outside. Wait for them to eliminate and... well you know the drill. If they don't eliminate after 10-15 minutes, don't make a big deal out of it. Just calmly take them inside, and wait. Even without the sniffing and circling, it is best to take the dog outside every couple of hours. The dog will learn that by going outside they get treats and praises, and you are happy. If accidents happen inside the house,



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DO NOT punish the dog. Yelling, screaming or hitting a dog is NEVER appropriate. Wipe up any mess, spray with an enzyme cleaner (such as Nature's Miracle), and supervise them better next time. You can tie your dog's leash to your waist so he can move with you throughout the house. You can also put him in a crate when you are not able to watch them 100%. A dog will not soil in crate, as they do not like to soil their space.

Crate Training

One of the best training aids for a dog or a puppy is a crate. Used correctly, it will become your dog's own private and safe haven where he can get away from the world. For you, it is a place where your dog can be confined so he won't be able to chew on unacceptable objects (furniture, electric cords, etc.) or eliminate on your rug, when the dog cannot be supervised.

The crate serves as a place to confine your dog when you must be out of the house for short periods of time. It is also a wonderful housebreaking tool. It allows you to regulate your dog's schedule so that he can be taken outside when it is most likely to eliminate.

The size of the dog as an adult should be taken into consideration when buying a crate. For an adult boxer 55+ lbs, we recommend 42" wire crate. For a smaller Boxer, 36" crate may be large enough. Put a soft blanket or crate mat that is washable inside the crate so your dog can be comfortable laying down in the crate. Place the crate in a room where family members spend most of their time. Remember, dogs are social creatures. Your leaving represents stress to the pet. A crate will foster the security a dog has when in his den, but it still needs you to interact and socialize with.

Introduce the dog to the crate by tossing a small treat inside and encouraging him to enter the crate to get the treat. Without closing the door, let your dog go in and out of the crate to get the treat, come out, and repeat a few times until the dog is comfortable going in and out of the crate. Praise the dog for going into the crate so they understand it's a good thing.





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Once your dog is comfortable with going in and out, toss more treats in the crate, then close the door for few seconds. Praise the dog while he is in the crate, then let him out. Repeat until he is comfortable, and gradually lengthen the duration where the dog has to stay in the crate for a few minutes. Don't worry if the dog does not take to the crate immediately. Try to increase the length up to 30 minutes to an hour. Do stay in the same room with your dog at the beginning, then walk away for few seconds, come back and give treats, go away for few minutes, then come praise the



dog and give treats. The objective here is to get your dog to understand a crate is a good thing, and that you are not abandoning him.

You should confine your puppy for **NO MORE THAN 3-4 HOURS** at a time during the day. A dog's natural instincts keep it from soiling the den, but remember that a young pup cannot "hold it". If he is forced to soil in his den, he will become difficult to houstrain. Always be sure your pet has eliminated before putting him in the crate. Leave your dog with a safe chew toy, i.e. Kong filled with peanut butter, etc.

If you crate your adult dog, an adult dog should not be crated any longer than 6 hours or so. If you are gone all day, make arrangements with a dog walker or a neighbor to walk the dog midday.

At night put the crate in your bedroom so the dog won't feel separated from his new family. Let him out in the yard just before you bed down and immediately when you rise in the morning.

You will want to go outside with your new dog and cue him to go to the restroom and then praise him. You may need to "get up" the first few nights to let your dog eliminate, however most dogs quickly learn to sleep through the night. From 8 weeks to 4 months of age the pup may cry or whimper so you may need to take the pup out to eliminate. Try to remain as quiet and calm as possible to not get the puppy stimulated so that he wants to play, after a calm praise put the pup back into the crate to go back to sleep.



Dog Parks

Dog parks can be great for your dog to socialize with other dogs, however allow time for your dog to settle in to your home and get to know you prior to taking him to the park.

We recommend waiting at least 4 to 6 weeks prior to taking your dog to the park. The duration depends on the dog. Dogs, just like people, don't like every dog they meet. Allow time to learn triggers or how your dog may react in social settings this will ensure that parks and other gatherings are a pleasant experience.

Taking a new dog to the dog park when they don't know you may result in them not responding when you call them. Taking time to bond with your new dog before going to the dog park is important. Also, just as some humans do not like parties, not all dogs



like dog parks. Do be respectful of his personality. If he doesn't like dog parks, he shouldn't be forced to go to them. Not all dogs like dog parks, just like not all people like to go to parties or social gatherings.

If your dog is a social dog, and does like dog parks, then there are a few things you may



want to keep in mind. If you haven't taken your dog to a dog park, make sure to try it out when the park is not crowded. Very early in the morning, or at dusk may work better for the first few times. You may use a long lead instead of letting him go completely so you have some control over the dog. Always avoid the entrance area where large numbers of dogs are gathered. Once you enter, quickly move away from the area, as most dogs in the area are overexcited and more prone to causing dog fights due to the level of excitement. If you have a neutered male, stay away from unneutered males. They have a tendency not to like each other. Inside the dog park, keep

moving around to give them a job to come with you and keep you in sight. Walking the outer edge of the dog park in a large circle and calling your dog while you are on the move will let him know that it is his job to follow you. When on the move, and when they have a job to do, they are much less prone to getting into trouble. Please remember, there are irresponsible dog owners at dog parks with dogs with inappropriate behavior. If you encounter them, it's best to leave the park. If your dog is exposed to repeated bad behavior by other dogs it may result in your dog becoming aggressive towards other dogs.



Exercise and Your Dog

A tired dog is a good dog. They are much less likely to get into trouble when they are tired. It's also a great way for you and your dog to bond. Dogs need the physical and mental stimulation to be happy. Be sure to throw in some obedience training during the exercise. It's a great opportunity to train your dog. Here are some ideas for exercise:

- Walk
- Run
- Hike on a trail
- Fetching balls or toys
- Dog park (after 4-6 weeks)



Separation Anxiety

Boxers are lovers. They love to be with their people and other dogs. Most Boxers are very social dogs. On the reverse side of that coin is separation anxiety. They have already been left by their original owner and when you leave for whatever reason, they may feel you aren't coming back either. They become terrified and will destroy things around them acting out their fear. This fear subsides considerably as they feel "safe" in their new home and they realize you are coming back. They are not "crazy", just terrified. This feeling safe doesn't happen overnight, it takes time.

When getting a new dog, set aside a few days to slowly adjust the dog to a crate. It is optimal if you are able to take a few days off or work from home right after the adoption to allow your dog to adjust into your home.

Here are some of the things you can do to prevent or ease separation anxiety:

- Establish leadership. Get them to understand you are their fearless leader
- Crate training slowly
- Exercise your dog prior to leaving them in the crate



- Keep your dog busy in the crate by having chewable items or a Kong filled with food
- Don't leave your dog in the crate for extended periods of time
- When leaving, don't make a big deal of you leaving – do it calmly
- Don't feel bad when you are leaving the dog – the dog can understand your emotions

Once again, do not hesitate to get help and information when you have a behavior problem that you do not know how to handle. With a few exceptions, most of

those problems are very correctable with some effort on the owner's part.

Food

When feeding the new dog, feed him in a quiet place where he does not get interrupted. Feeding him in a crate is perfect. Do not pet or hug your dog while he/she is eating.



Some dogs are protective of their food, and they do not know to trust you yet. **DO NOT** let your kids interrupt their feeding time. The dog needs to feel secure when eating their food. When you and your family are serving and eating your food, do not put the dog in a place where they can get to your food. Put him in a tie down away from the food area, or put him in a crate where he can watch you eat calmly.



One of the questions we are asked often is what to feed. We recommend premium brand dog food. Make sure there is no corn or corn meal listed in the ingredients, as corn is not digestible for the dogs. Here are some of the premium brands we like:

- Taste of the Wild
 - Merrick
 - Wellness
- Blue Buffalo
- Instinct
- Orijen

Boxers, especially young dogs, have very sensitive stomachs. When a young Boxer is settling into a new environment, their stress alone can cause stomach upset and loose stools. If that occurs, you can cook some white rice and chicken breasts, then add a tablespoon of canned pumpkin to settle their stomach. You can either put them on the cooked food completely, or blend it into the kibbles. If diarrhea is bad and doesn't improve, you may need to consult your veterinarian. But for occasional stomach upset in

young Boxers, chicken, rice and pumpkin is a good solution. When switching them back to the regular food, gradually make the change back by increasing the kibble ration every meal.



There are other food options than kibble. Some choose a raw food diet, others choose to cook for their dogs. The pet food industry did not begin until the late 1800's and did not gain momentum until the mid 1900's. There are quite a few books out there on dog food and supplements. They are worth a read.



Some people food is toxic to dogs. **DO NOT FEED YOUR DOGS THE FOLLOWING:**

- Chocolate, coffee, caffeine
- Alcohol
- Avocado
- Macadamia nuts
- Grapes and raisins
- Xylitol
- Onion, Garlic and Chives
- Salt

Household Poisons

We discussed the kind of food that is poisonous for dogs, but there are other household items that can be dangerous for your dogs too.

- People and pet medication – pain medication like Advil (ibuprofen) , antidepressants, antiinflammatory medication like Rimadryl can cause ulcer, kidney failure, vomiting, fever and seizures
- Rat and mouse poison – commonly available poison can also kill your dog. We recommend other types of traps to catch them for the safety sake
- Chemicals – antifreeze and paint thinner as well as other chemicals can be fatal to dogs. Make sure your dog does not drink from puddles, etc. while on a walk.
- Household cleaning products – bleach and other cleaning problem can be toxic. Make sure your dog is not able to get to these items.
- Fertilizers, insecticides and other gardening supplies –Even snail bait can be toxic, as well as other chemical fertilizer so please keep them locked up





- Household and garden plants – list includes lilies, sago plant, tulip, narcissus and other bulbs, azalea, rhododendron, oleander, cyclamen, ivy, peace lily and much more. Mushrooms that grow in your yard after it rains can be highly toxic and cause kidney failure.

Please remember, Dogs can climb onto counters or shelves to get to what they want. If you suspect that your dog may have ingested something potentially dangerous, please contact your local veterinarian, emergency animal clinic or ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center hotline immediately. ASPCA's hotline is (888) 426-4435. They are available 24/7, 365 days, however you may be charged for the consultation.

Walking Tools

All West Coast Boxer Rescue dogs that are old enough will come equipped with a martingale collar. Martingale collars are an ideal choice, as they expand to fit over the head but tighten up when pressure is applied with the leash, keeping the collar in place and the dog under control. When properly adjusted, a martingale, unlike the traditional collar, will not slip over the head when a dog attempts to back out of his collar. It is also thought to be safer and more humane compared to a choke chain or pinch collars. The collar will tighten to a certain point, but it will not tighten excessively, thus preventing injury to the neck. We strongly suggest you use a martingale collar instead of the traditional buckle collar. They are readily available in most pet store, online retailers as well as in our web store. Please read Appendix II for more information regarding how to properly use martingale.

Boxers are strong dogs and most young dogs tend to pull on a leash. We highly recommend purchasing a harness to walk your dogs on if they pull. We do not recommend most harnesses where the leash attaches to the back of the harness, as it encourages dogs to pull harder due to the "opposition reflex". We recommend trying a harness that has a front chest leash attachment. This type of harness will discourage a dog from pulling by creating pressure on their shoulder when they pull. It also redirects the dog to turn around and look towards you when they pull. It does not cause any pain. We prefer the harness over the traditional choke chain or pinch collar. Here are some of the harnesses we recommend:



- Premier - Easy Walk
- The company of Animals - Halti Harness



- SENSE-ation Harness

We discourage the use of devices that restrict the muzzles such as Halti Headcollar or muzzles. Boxers have a short muzzle thus they are much more prone to overheating compared to longer nose breeds.

We recommend a 6 foot flat leash for walking the dogs. Please do not use a retractable leash – they have a tendency to teach dogs to pull to where they want to go.

Veterinary Care

We highly recommend taking your new dog and their adoption and medical records (showing their most recent vaccinations, spay / neuter and microchip) to your vet. This allows your veterinarian to have up to date information on your new addition as well as to make notes for follow up visits and to put your pet on Heartworm preventative if needed for your area. Your dog should see a veterinarian at least once a year to keep up with their vaccination schedule. If you are adopting a puppy, your puppy must see a veterinarian as soon as possible. Please refer to Appendix I for information about puppy care.



Use Caution

Do not roughhouse with the dog or play any competitive games like; Tug of War, Chase or Wrestling until the dog bonds with you and feels safe and not threatened by you. He may think you are trying to hurt him.

What's in a Name

Keep in mind the world for your new dog has changed completely. They have gone from a home to the shelter, vetted, temporary or foster care, and now in a new home with you. Your new dog may or may not know their name, depending on where they came from. So please be patient for them to recognize their new name. You can help your dog learn their new name using positive reinforcement. When your new dog is calm and attentive, call the dog by their new name. When he or she looks at you, give them a treat. You can repeat this exercise over and over again. Soon your dog will know to look at you when you call their name.



Shopping List

Here are some basic supplies you may want prior to your dog coming home:



- 6' flat leash
- Harness
- 42" or 36" crate
- Premium dog food
- Food and water bowl, preferably metal
- Training treats
- Blanket or crate mat for the crate
- Chew bone, tennis ball and squeaky toy

Thank You

Thank you for taking time to read through our handbook. With lots of love, praise and patience you can look forward to many years of wonderful friendship with your new dog! We are a group of volunteers who have been lucky enough to have our lives touched by Boxers. If you feel the same, please join our effort and you too can help the Boxers in need.

Volunteer sign up link: <http://www.westcoastboxerrescue.org/help/volunteer/>

Donation link: <http://www.westcoastboxerrescue.org/help/donate/>



Appendix I – Adopting a Young Puppy

A young puppy under the age of 16 weeks requires special care. All West Coast Boxer Rescue dogs come with age appropriate vaccinations. If your puppy is not yet 16 weeks old, he or she is not yet fully vaccinated. It is your responsibility as an adopter to keep up with vaccination. You are required to take your new puppy to a veterinary office and take the medical records provided by us so that you can continue the puppy's vaccinations. Generally, DHPP must be given to your puppy every 3-4 weeks. Rabies and Bordetella must be administered to your puppy at the age of 16 weeks. Once all vaccinations are complete at 16 weeks, wait 5-7 days prior to taking your dog out into a public area. **Until then, your puppy should NEVER be allowed to step a foot in public area such as streets, sidewalks, parks, dog parks, pet stores, etc.** This is to avoid any chance of them contracting harmful viruses such as Parvovirus or Distemper



which can kill your puppy. It is OK to let your dog play in your own yard, or your friends as long as the area has no access for stray animals and all animals are up to date on their vaccinations.

Puppies must be socialized. We strongly encourage people to begin puppy training as soon as possible – as early as 9 weeks old. These training classes are group classes that require vaccination records for your puppies. Many training schools also have puppy socialization classes where puppies can safely interact with other puppies. We strongly recommend these classes so you and your puppies can learn what acceptable behavior is as well as when and how to interrupt your puppies playtime. Puppies also learn much needed social skills in these classes which will help them get along with other dogs down the road.

A young puppy may not be spayed or neutered when they come to your home. We require spay and neuter to be completed between 4-6 months of age. If you are able to bring the dog to one of our approved spay/neuter vets, the fee is covered by us. If you choose to complete it at your own veterinarian, we will cover up to \$100 of the cost of the procedure. You are required to send in the spay/neuter certificate as well as the receipt, and refund request to the following address:

West Coast Boxer Rescue
P.O. Box 178634
San Diego, Ca. 92177

Once the certificate and receipt along with the request is received, a payment will be processed within 10 business days.

Appendix II – Recommended Walking Tools

Martingale Collar

The thick neck and blocky head of the Boxer makes proper collar fit a challenge. Boxers need a collar flexible enough to fit over their heads, but tight enough to stay in place as the dog moves. Martingale collars are an ideal choice, as they expand to fit over the head but tighten up when pressure is applied with the leash, keeping the collar in place and the dog under control.



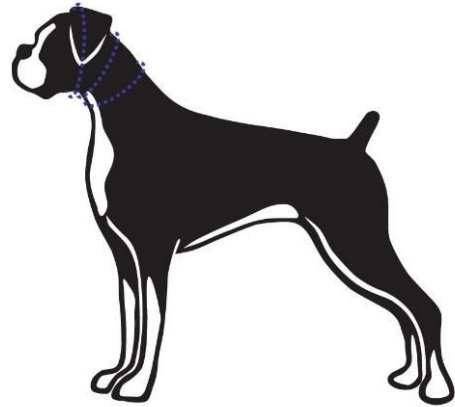
When properly adjusted, a martingale, unlike the traditional collar, will not slip over the head when a dog attempts to back out of his collar. It is also thought to be safer and more humane compared to a choke chain or pinch collars. The collar will tighten to a certain point, but it will not tighten excessively, thus preventing injury to the neck. Martingale collars can be a great piece of safety and training equipment, but only if used properly. We wanted to create this document to help new adopters and foster



homes learn how to properly fit a Martingale Collar. The same system applies to Buckle Martingale collars.

Choosing the Perfect Size for your Martingale Dog Collar

To measure your dog for a Martingale Collar, use a soft tape measure and measure three points - around the widest part of the head, behind the ears, and around the neck (where the dog collar will sit). Choose the smallest size dog collar that will still fit all three points. For example, if your dog has a 16" neck at the narrowest point and 18" at the widest point, select a medium sized dog collar (adjustable from 13-20") rather than a large, which is adjustable from 16-26 inches.



Size	Measurement	Width
Small	10"-16"	1"
Medium	13"-20"	1"
Large	16"-26"	1"

How to Adjust Your Martingale Dog Collar

First, look at your collar. There are 2 loops, the smaller loop is called the Control Loop and this is where the D-ring is located. The second loop is the adjustable part of the collar, this is what allows you to tighten or loosen the collar to make it fit your dog correctly.



Before you attempt to put the collar over your dog's head make sure to expand the collar to its largest size first. Do not try and force the collar over your dog's head without expanding it fully (your dog will thank you for it)! To expand the collar, you will need to use one hand to hold the adjustable buckle and the other hand to feed the collar gently through the buckle. Feed the collar through until it opens up.

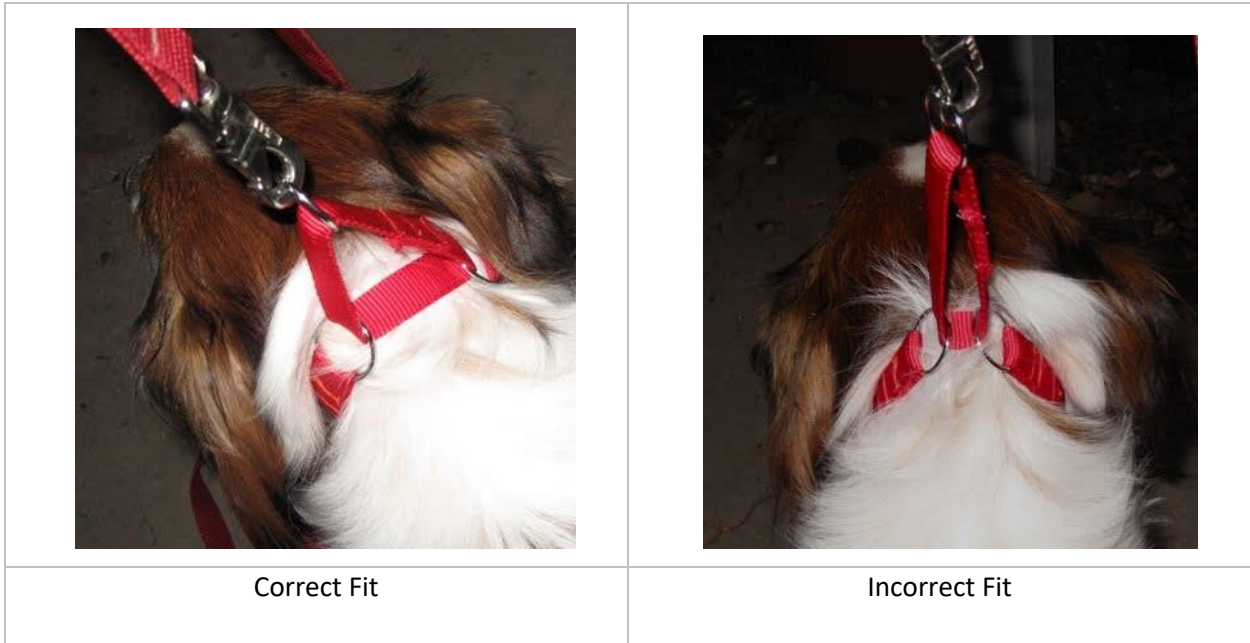


Slip your Martingale Collar over the dog's head. You will have to adjust the collar larger than its final size to slip it over the head. If you have a buckle martingale collar, you can simply put the collar around the neck and connect the

side release buckle.

Adjust your martingale collar by pulling it up to the narrowest part of the neck, right behind the ears of the dog. This is the point you want to adjust the collar to since this is where the collar slips over the head. Make an adjustment to the collar so there is a two inch distance between the two metal slides on each side of the control loop. Pull upwards on the loop by holding the d-ring. You should see the control loop tighten. The two metal sliders on each side of the control loop should come toward each other but NEVER touch. If they touch, your collar is too loose, and you will need to tighten the collar more. This will ensure the collar will continue to tighten if the dog tries to back out of his collar. You should be able to get 2 fingers between the 2 pieces of hardware on the control loop.

Properly fitted on a dog, the Martingale should sit around the middle of the neck when the control loop is not tightened by pulling. This is comfortable for the dogs. To remove the collar, you may have to use both hands and tuck the ears. This is perfectly fine and isn't uncomfortable for your dog. If you have a dog that doesn't like his ears touched, you may consider either a Buckle Martingale or you may need to loosen the collar before taking it off.



Front Clip No-Pull Harness

We recommend the type of harness that allows you to attach a leash on the chest, which gives you more control of your dog's front half and gently guides him back towards you when he pulls. It also works by gently tightening around your dog's shoulder area, restraining him when he pulls. They are ideal for pullers. Here are some of the brands we recommend:

Easy Walk by Premier/Petsafe: <http://www.petsafe.net/>



SENSE-ation by Softtoch Concept: <http://www.softouchconcepts.com/>



Halti Harness by The Company of Animals: <http://www.companyofanimals.us/>



Note that a Halti Harness has a clip on a ring that will allow the attachment of a harness to the collar. We highly recommend an extra clip be used or you clip the harness to the collar by using the leash when walking dogs. Otherwise, Boxers and non-furry breeds can easily wiggle out from the harness. This configuration is often referred to as Power Steering in training circles.



A harness should never be left on a dog that is not being walked. Leaving it on may result in injury. We do not recommend harnesses with back clip. Most of these harnesses will cause a dog to pull more than less.

Leashes



We recommend all dogs be walked on 4-6 ft leashes. We prefer the 6ft, as it provides the most flexibility. 1" cotton or nylon works well, as well as some leather leashes. Please do not use retractable leads, as it will teach a dog to pull to go where they want to go. You will also have less control with the retractable.



Appendix III – Registering Your Dog’s Microchip

*** IMPORTANT!!! PLEASE REGISTER YOUR DOG’S MICROCHIP ***

West Coast Boxer Rescue’s dogs are microchipped with either HomeAgain or another brand of microchip. It is very important that you follow the below instructions to register your dog to receive a discounted registration rate of \$10.99 through Petfinder and HomeAgain’s Chip FurKeeps program. (Regular registration rate is \$17.99.) Please follow the instructions below to register your dog online or by phone:

- **ONLINE:** Go to <https://www.homeagain.com/chipfurkeeps>. Click on “FOR PET PARENTS” link at the top. When asked to enter Petfinder Shelter ID, type in “CA1971” (without the quotes).
- **TELEPHONE:** Call 1-866-802-5650. When asked for Petfinder Shelter ID, please let them know its “CA1971”.
- Please list our rescue contact information as an alternate contact. Here is our info:

West Coast Boxer Rescue

P.O. Box 178634

San Diego, Ca. 92177

Why register your dog’s microchip? Here are some reasons:



- 6 to 8 million pets enter U.S. shelters each year. Many are lost family pets.
- Today, only 3 to 4 percent of dogs, and less than 1 percent of cats, arriving at U.S. shelters are microchipped.
- 1 in 3 family pets will get lost.
- Without ID, 90 percent of lost pets will not return home.
- A microchip is the only form of pet identification that is permanent, with a unique number that cannot fall off, be altered, or be removed.
- Extensive testing and long-term use have shown the HomeAgain microchip is a safe and permanent method of identification for pets.
- Thanks to the HomeAgain Microchip and the HomeAgain Recovery Service, more than 600,000 lost pets have been returned to their families.
- HomeAgain recovers 10,000 lost pets each month (120,000 per year.)

Additional information

There is a universal microchip database you can check to see if your dog's microchip is registered properly: <http://petmicrochiplookup.org/>

Here are some commonly asked questions and answers

Q: Is the \$10.99 microchip registration fee an annual fee?

A: No. Through the Chip FurKeeps program, HomeAgain microchip enrollment (which is regularly priced at \$17.99) is only \$10.99. HomeAgain microchip enrollment includes lifetime microchip registration as well as a one-year membership in the HomeAgain Pet Recovery Service. Adopters have the option of renewing the extra services provided by HomeAgain Pet Recovery Service for \$17.99 per year. However if they choose not to renew, the microchips will remain registered to them for life and their contact information can be updated online at any time for free.

Q: Can I include the registration fee in the adoption fee?

A: The HomeAgain chip registration fee needs to be on the adopter's credit card. We do recommend having the adopter call the dedicated, toll-free enrollment number at 866802-5650 or go online at the time of adoption to register the microchip with HomeAgain before leaving with the pet (the adopter will need your Petfinder Shelter ID). Studies have shown that less than 50% of microchips are ever registered by pet parents, so ensuring that microchip registration is done before the pet leaves your shelter or rescue is critical.



Q: Will adopters' credit cards be automatically charged for HomeAgain membership renewals?

A: When they register, adopters have the option of signing up for HomeAgain membership auto-renewals, but it is not required.

Q: How do my adopters update their personal information on the chips?

A: HomeAgain members may update their contact information at any time online by logging into HomeAgain.com at no charge, whether or not they choose to renew their annual membership.

Q: Can I register the chip to my shelter or rescue?

A: In order to earn free chips through the Chip FurKeeps program, the microchips must be registered to the adopter, however, you can request that the adopter list your contact information as an alternate contact. Also, HomeAgain maintains the original microchip shipment information for your group and will contact your shelter or rescue in the event that the primary and alternate microchip contacts are unreachable when the pet is found.

Q: If a pet that my shelter has recently adopted out is returned and adopted to a new home, is there a charge to transfer the microchip registration and HomeAgain membership? How is the transfer done?

A: There is no charge as long as the transfer is done within one year from the date of the original microchip enrollment. For Chip FurKeeps shelters, the transfer is done the same way as a new microchip enrollment—either online or by calling the dedicated tollfree enrollment number. The new adopter will assume the remainder of the HomeAgain membership (e.g., if the pet is originally enrolled by the first adopter in January and the transfer to the second adopter is done in March, the second adopter will take over the remaining nine months on the pet's HomeAgain membership, and the microchip registration will be transferred into his/her name—all at no charge).

Q: Can other brands of microchips be registered in the HomeAgain National Pet Recovery Database?

A: Yes. Parents of pets implanted with any brand of microchip can register their pets' microchip IDs with HomeAgain to become members and receive all the same benefits as HomeAgain members with HomeAgain microchips. They, too, will need to pay the annual membership fee to maintain their exclusive member benefits. Once registered, their pets' microchip IDs will remain in our database for life, regardless of membership status, and contact information may be updated online anytime free of charge by logging into HomeAgain.com.



Q: What are the extra benefits of the annual HomeAgain membership?

A: The annual HomeAgain membership offers extra services for pets, such as 24/7 access to trained lost pet counselors, Travel Assistance for Found Pets, free anytime access to a Pet Medical Emergency Hotline (staffed with licensed veterinarians), etc. Also, HomeAgain has a proactive network of veterinarians, shelters, and volunteer PetRescuers who are immediately notified through Lost Pet Alerts to help locate lost pets. The first year of membership is included with the initial microchip registration. The additional annual membership benefits can be maintained by the pet parent for \$17.99 per year.

Q: A pet with a microchip came into my shelter. Now what do I do?

A: The first step is to identify the correct microchip registry to call. Use the AAHA Universal Microchip Lookup, available at www.petmicrochiplookup.org, to identify the registry with the most recent registration on file for that microchip. If no registration information is found, the tool will indicate the manufacturer/distributor of the microchip.

Call the microchip registry, using the telephone number provided, and let them know that the pet is in your care.

Q: Are the HomeAgain microchips readable by other scanners?

A: The answer to this question really depends on your scanner. Here's why:

In the last few years, significant progress has been made towards the goal of a true microchip standard in the U.S. The 134 kHz chip (aka "ISO Standard" chip) was introduced into the U.S. in 2004. This microchip is defined by specifications developed by the International Standards Organization, commonly known as ISO. HomeAgain began offering the 134 kHz microchip in 2007. HomeAgain also continues to offer 125 kHz microchips, which until recently, was the most common frequency sold in the U.S.

Whether or not your scanner will read HomeAgain chips depends on the scanner. For example, if your scanner was purchased prior to the introduction of the 134 kHz chip frequency in the U.S., it probably only reads the 125 kHz frequency. Please make sure you are using a true universal scanner—one that reads (and displays the microchip ID numbers) of all microchip frequencies and brands sold in the U.S. You will intake pets with microchips other than the frequency and brand you implant—and the only way to be prepared for this is to have a true universal scanner.

The majority of scanners sold in this country today are universal, with the exception of one microchipping company that sells a true universal scanner, but also continues to offer a single-frequency scanner capable of reading only the 125 kHz frequency chip.



Make sure that the scanner you are using reads and displays the microchip ID numbers of all frequencies (125 kHz, 134 kHz, and 128 kHz) and all brands ever sold in the U.S.

For the last three years, HomeAgain has offered only true universal scanners—called the HomeAgain® Universal WorldScan™ Reader. The HomeAgain Universal WorldScan Reader reads and displays all known chip frequencies and brands used in animal identification in the U.S. In a real-world trial, the HomeAgain Universal WorldScan Reader was shown to be the most sensitive in detecting all frequencies of microchips—regardless of brand—and accurately displaying the ID codes¹.