



RESCUE READY:

AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO
ADOPTING A SHELTER PET

 www.fortworthtexas.gov/animals

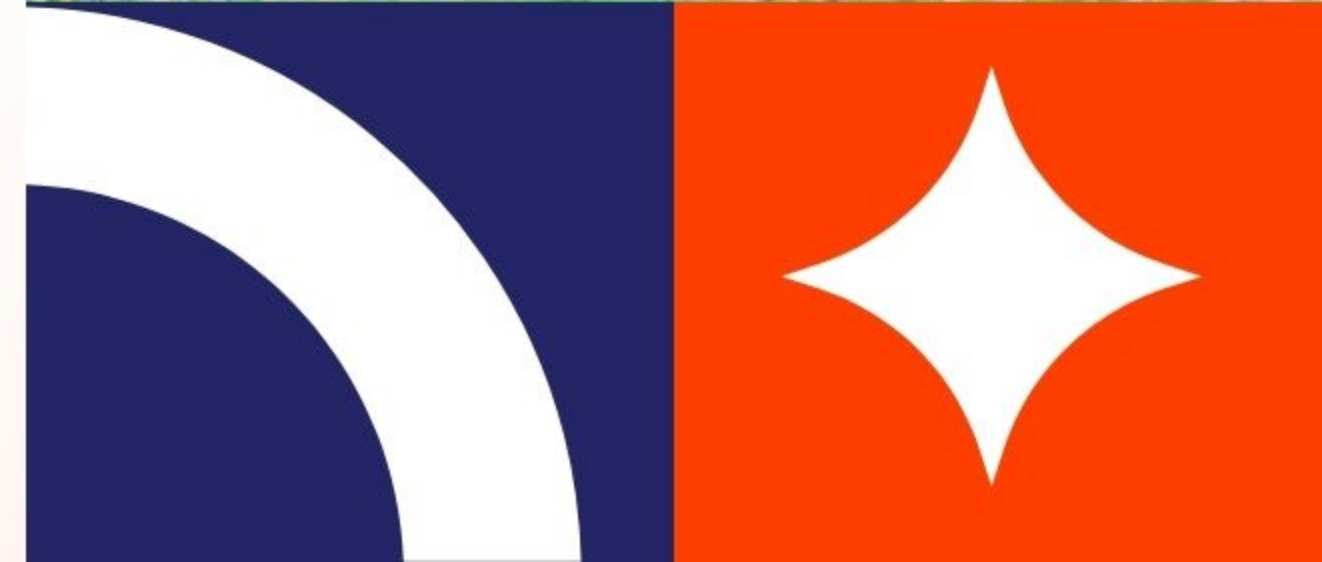




ADOPTION 101

Adopting from Fort Worth Animal Care & Control is a rewarding experience. Your adoption helps save lives and creates space for other animals in need.

As your new pet adjusts, remember they need time, patience, and care to help them feel at home. This guide will help you navigate the early days of pet ownership, ensuring a smooth transition for both you and your furry new friend.





COMMITMENT & RESPONSIBILITY

Adopting a pet is a long-term commitment, often lasting 10 to 20 years. As their owner, you'll be their primary caregiver, responsible for consistently meeting their needs, including food, healthcare, and companionship.





EVALUATE YOUR LIFESTYLE



DAILY ROUTINE

Think about how much time you can dedicate to your pet. Some animals require more attention, exercise, or companionship than others.



ACTIVITY LEVEL

Consider your activity level. Whether you enjoy long hikes, short walks, or prefer a more relaxed lifestyle, the right pet should match your energy.



LIVING SPACE

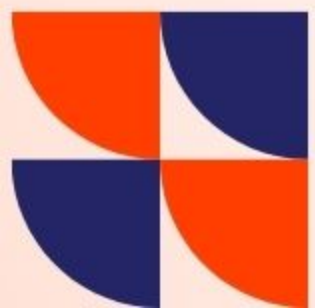
Size matters! A large dog may need a yard to run in, while a cat or smaller pet can thrive in an apartment with the right setup.



FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Caring for a pet comes with ongoing expenses, including veterinary visits, food, grooming, toys, and unexpected medical costs. It's important to budget for both routine and emergency care to ensure your pet stays healthy and happy.

When adopting from FWACC, pets are already vaccinated, spayed or neutered, and microchipped, helping reduce initial expenses.





BEING A PROVIDER

FOR DOGS

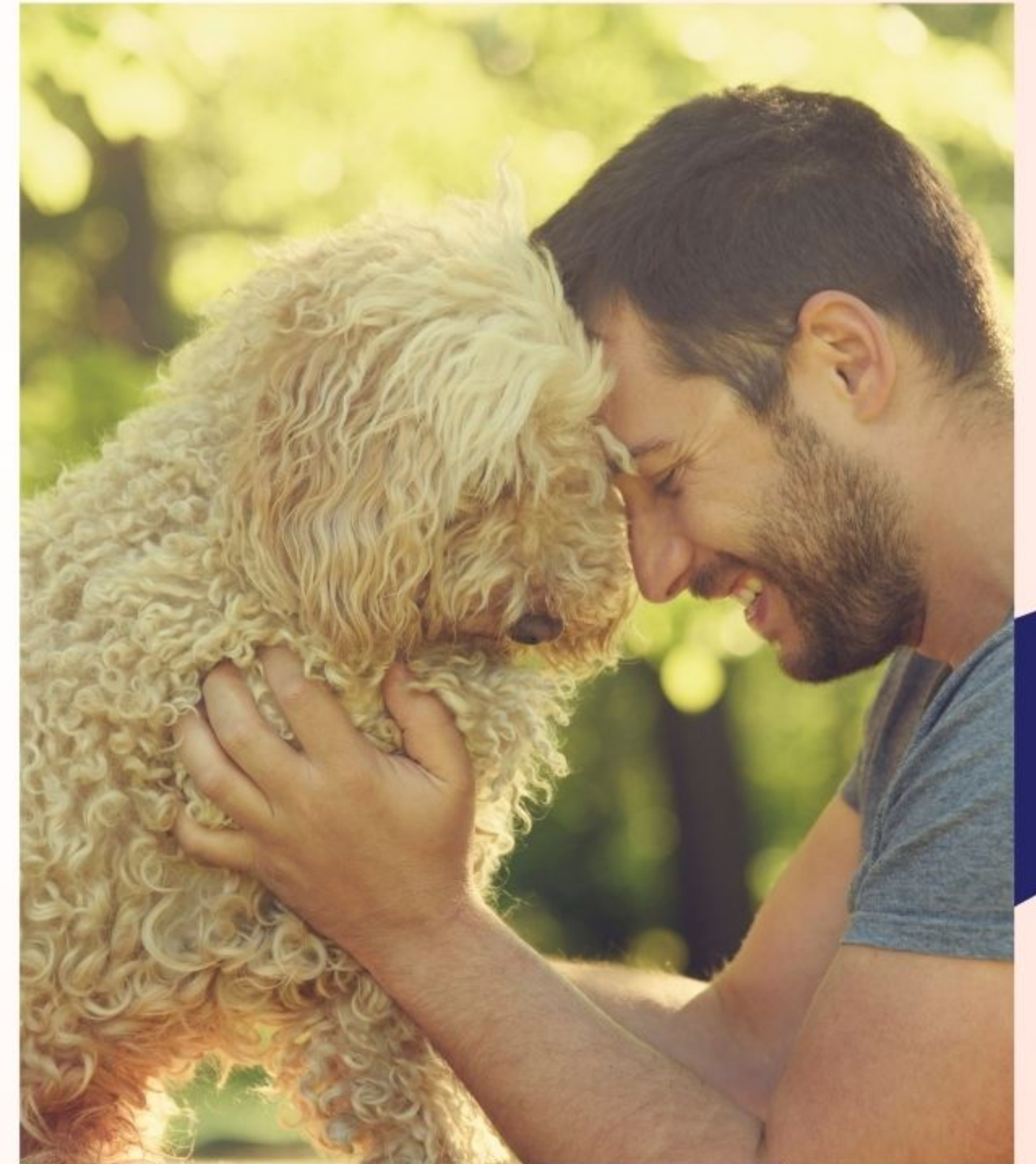
Dogs need regular exercise, training, and socialization to stay happy and healthy. A secure yard or frequent walks will help them burn energy. They benefit from toys, chew items, and positive reinforcement training.

FOR CATS

Cats, on the other hand, need scratching posts, climbing spaces, and a quiet place to retreat. Providing interactive toys and enrichment activities helps keep them stimulated.

SPACING AND ALIGNMENT

Both dogs and cats require nutritious food, fresh water, mental enrichment, and regular vet visits.





COMPATABILITY WITH ANIMALS

If you already have pets at home, consider how they might react to your new companion. Arranging a meet-and-greet before adoption can help assess compatibility and ease the transition.

FWACC gives current pet owners the chance to introduce their pets to a potential new companion before making a final adoption decision. This helps ensure a good match and a smooth transition for everyone.





HOME READINESS

- **LIVING SPACES**

Before bringing your new pet home, take the time to assess your living space and make it safe and welcoming.

- **FAMILY PREP**

Ensure that all family members are prepared for the responsibilities of pet care and are excited about the new addition.

- **PET ESSENTIALS**

Stock up on essential supplies such as a collar, leash, bed, food, water bowls, and toys to help your pet feel comfortable from day one.





ADJUSTMENT PERIOD

Shelter pets need time to acclimate to their new home. Provide a quiet space where they can feel secure, avoid overwhelming them, and be patient as they adjust to their new surroundings.

Establishing a routine for feeding, walks, and playtime will help them feel secure. Allow time for bonding and be patient as your pet learns to trust their new family.





TRAINING & BEHAVIOR

THE BASICS

Training is a crucial part of helping your pet adjust to their new home. Start with basic obedience training, including commands like sit, stay, and come, to establish good behavior early on.

REINFORCEMENT

Consistency is key—reinforce positive behavior with rewards and avoid mixed signals that can confuse your pet.

BONDING

Socialization is important, especially for dogs, so expose them to different environments, people, and other animals in a controlled manner.

ASK THE PROS

If needed, seek professional training to address specific behavioral challenges and ensure a well-adjusted pet.



HEALTHY LIVING

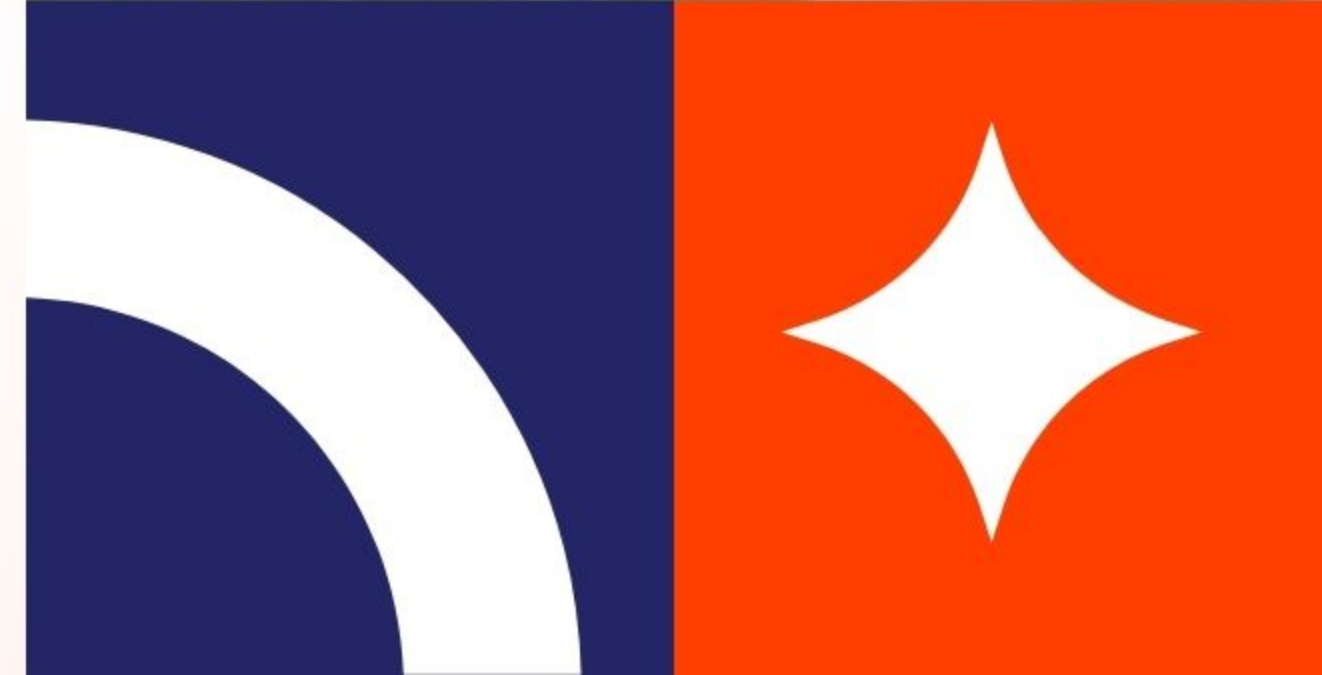
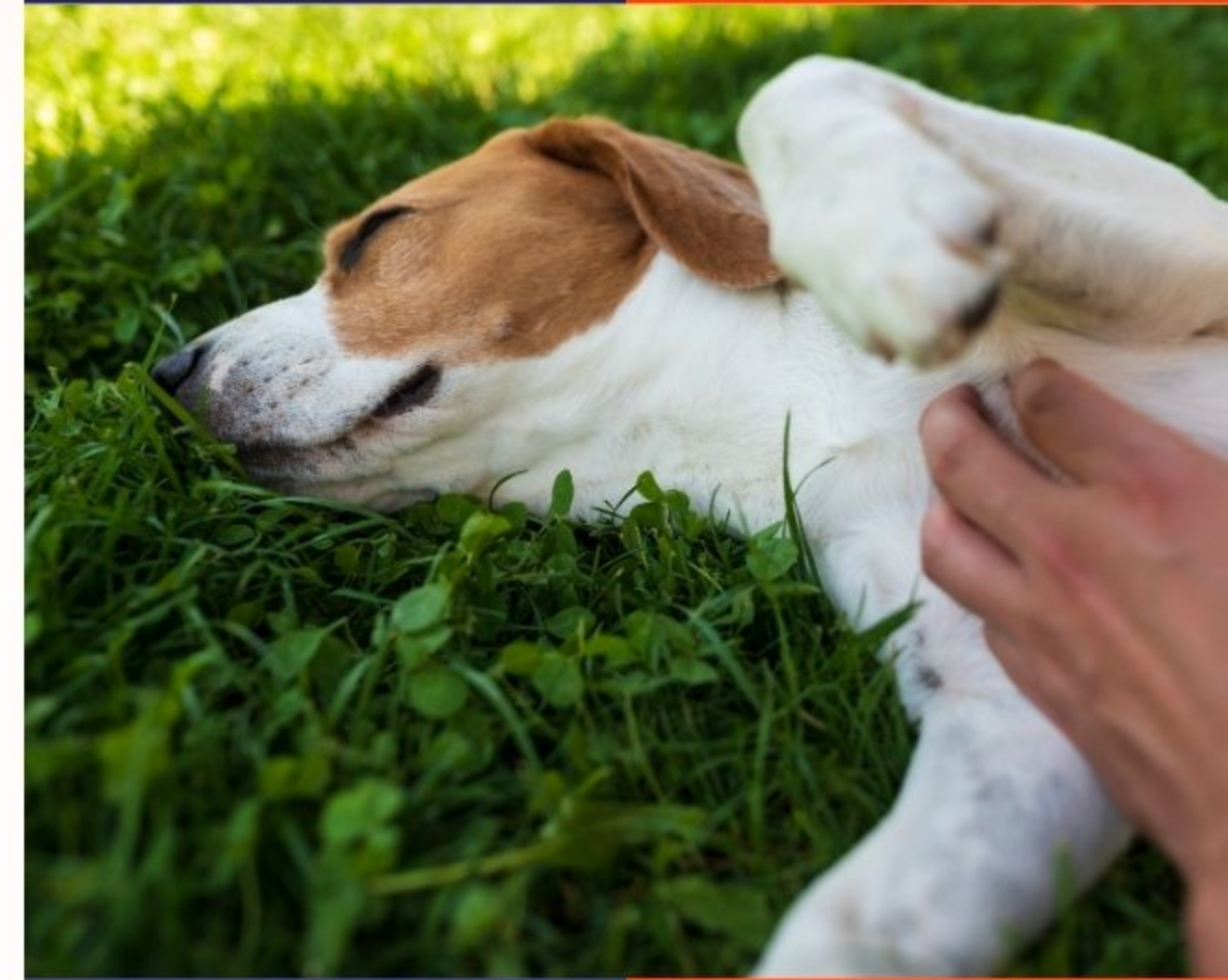
Scheduling a vet check-up within the first few weeks helps ensure your pet's health. Preventative care, such as flea and tick treatments, heartworm prevention, and dental hygiene, is essential for their long-term well-being. Regular check-ups will keep your pet happy and healthy for years to come.





ENJOY THE JOURNEY

Thank you for considering adoption and giving a pet a second chance. For more information, visit the FWACC website at **[fortworthtexas.gov/animals](https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/animals)**. Follow FWACC on social media for updates on adoptable pets and upcoming events.





CONTACT US

Have a question or need assistance? Our team is here to help! Get in touch with us and we'll provide you with the support you need.



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