



We are professionally trained to help you enjoy peace of mind while your dog enjoys his walks. Yes, even while we stop to pick up his poop.

# cheerfuldogs chronicles

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Issue 23

## A World of Dogs: Picking a Winner – Adopting from a Shelter

Adopting a dog from a shelter can fluster even the most level-headed person.

We go, determined that today is the day. A lifetime pal for us, a playmate for the kids, or maybe a brother or sister for Spot, waiting at home. But once we're there, decision paralysis sets in. On all sides there are dark, pleading eyes, tails wagging furiously, and tongues trying to lick us through the mesh of a cage. Walking past those kennels, the anticipation is palpable — and often noisy: Me!

Me! Pick me! Faced with so many four-legged hopefuls, most opt for the love-at-first-sight method of choosing: A pretty face, colours that appeal, a size that looks about right, and our proverbial goose is cooked.



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But as with human relationships, initial attraction alone may turn out to be a poor predictor of long-term happiness. Successful matches are much more likely when would-be adopters carefully consider what is right for them and go looking for it. As the Greek aphorism prescribes: Know Thyself. An avid distance runner looking for a running buddy, for example, might want to pick a Border Collie mix over a Bulldog mix. Barking can be okay or a deal breaker, depending on the person. Some people don't mind long hair and drool on their eggshell-coloured couches; others very much do.

cont.

## ...picking a winner

Dogs of all types, ages, sizes, and energy levels are lovable, of course. And they all deserve loving homes. Going to a shelter with a shopping list (... short hair, medium-sized, good with cats...) may strike some as too businesslike. Unromantic. But factoring in lifestyle and temperament compatibility when looking for a canine companion drastically increases the chances of a happy, life-long relationship. In the end, nobody would expect every person they came across to be a suitable partner, either. One person's ideal is another's recipe for disaster. Besides, preparedness is the best defence against the urge to take home every single dog in the shelter.



We adopted CCO Kiyo from the SPCA, and we're all winners!



### Tips & Tools: Preventing Dog Loss

- Do: Tag and microchip your dog. It's good to have your contact number on the tag.
- Do: Keep your dog on leash outside. Make sure your dog has a bullet-proof recall.
- Don't: Leave your dog alone in the garden.
- Don't: Tie your dog outside a shop.

#### If Your Dog is Lost

- Search the neighbourhood, on foot or in a car. Call and whistle loudly. Ask friends, neighbours, or family members for help.
- Call the SPCA, local animal shelters, and pet hospitals.
- Write a 'Lost Dog' flyer with a photo and distribute around the neighbourhood, dog parks, etc.

If you offer a reward, beware of scammers. Owners of lost pets are frequently targeted. Never pay a reward until you're literally handed your dog.



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