Developing lasting partnerships within your community
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Get the most out of your Catalyst Connection toolkit

This kit contains materials that will help you build lasting connections with other animal care professionals in your area. This sheet provides a brief description of each piece to help you understand how and when they should be used. Once you familiarize yourself with these pieces, they should help you develop valuable partnerships and encourage pet owners to take proper care of their pets.

### Educational materials

- **Catalyst Connection backgrounder.** An overview of Catalyst Connection that includes important information on the reasons behind the initiative and ways it can benefit your facility and community.

- **Statistical sheet.** A detailed look into the current trends that surround pet ownership and how they affect animal shelters and veterinary clinics.

- **Reasons to engage.** Informative sheets that highlight the benefits of partnering with local animal care professionals and can help you communicate with potential partners.

- **Successful partnerships.** Samples of other partnerships that have already seen success from working together in their communities.

- **Terminology guide and Resource guide.** A list of outdated terms along with some friendly alternatives and educational resources to help strengthen partnerships.

### Partnership materials

- **3 steps to getting started.** A step-by-step guide to contacting other facilities in your area and beginning a conversation about working together toward a common goal.

- **Letter/email templates.** These templates provide suggestions on how to craft a letter or email to another facility inviting them to meet and discuss the possibility of teaming up.

- **Memorandum of agreement.** A template for you and another facility to use when creating a written agreement pertaining to the structure of your partnership and your commitment to specified goals.

### Pet owner materials

- **Pet owner guides.** These guides will help new pet owners get off to a good start when first adopting their pet. They educate owners on everything from the first night with their new pet to the importance of proper veterinary care.

- **Complimentary exam voucher and health certificate.** This voucher entitles the new owner to a veterinary exam for their new pet to help ensure healthy habits are instilled from the start. The chosen veterinarian completes the health certificate after the first exam.

- **Cat and dog health tracker forms.** These forms help owners stay aware and up-to-date on veterinary visits, vaccinations, and diagnostic tests.
Educational materials
Discover the Catalyst Connection

Bringing veterinarians, animal shelters, and rescue organizations together
Building a community to support animals

Animal adoption organizations and veterinary practices share the desire to promote positive outcomes for pets. While these groups often operate independently, effective partnerships can lead to better outcomes for all—especially the animals.

The CATalyst Council, a non-profit organization dedicated to changing society’s image of cats and improving the treatment of all pets, started the Catalyst Connection initiative to help adoption organizations and veterinary practices work together to keep more pets healthy and happy in loving homes.

A vital partnership

Pets get their best chance for a healthy future when their owners develop good pet care habits from the start, and regular veterinary care is an important “habit” that pays off in more ways than one.

A study1 performed by the American Humane Association found correlations where pet adopters who:

- Do not seek advice or support were 3 times more likely to give up their pet.
- Rank cost, time commitment, health, and behavioral issues as high concerns were less likely to keep the pet they adopted.
- Visit a veterinarian shortly after adoption were more likely to keep their pet.
Teamwork is essential

The entire community benefits
Adoption organizations, veterinary practices, pet owners, pets, and communities all benefit by working together.

Adoption organizations benefit from:
• Having more confidence that the dogs and cats they are placing in new homes will not be abandoned.
• Local veterinary practices increasing their adoption recommendations.

Veterinary practices benefit from:
• Seeing new pet owners earlier, so proper pet care is communicated from the start.
• Partnering with shelter organizations to gain new clients. Additional income can be reinvested in staff and facility improvements which, in turn, will allow the practice to better serve more animals in their community.

Pet owners benefit from:
• One-on-one coaching to develop effective pet care habits.
• Access to professional support to help them maintain the health and well-being of their new pet.

Pets benefit from:
• The proper veterinary care they need from the start.
• Having their best chance to remain in a forever home for a long, healthy, and happy life.

Communities benefit from:
• More efficient use of scarce resources.
• Fewer abandoned animals in the community.

Retention rates are higher for pets that have seen a veterinarian!
Catalyst Connection

Working to create and support the human/animal bond

Catalyst Connection's mission is to enhance and protect the lives of animals by promoting successful adoptions and lifetime veterinary care, which ultimately translates to better, longer-lasting relationships between pets and their owners. We are dedicated to equipping veterinary practices and adoption organizations with the tools you need to create strong, successful relationships within your communities.

How does Catalyst Connection make this happen?

• Providing resources and tools to help initiate and maintain partnerships between local adoption agencies and veterinary practices.
• Supporting these relationships with guidance and backing from recognized experts.
• Serving as an ongoing resource for you.


For more information and to download useful resources to help start a connection in your community, visit www.catalystcouncil.org/connection.
Some troubling numbers

- An estimated 6 to 8 million cats and dogs enter animal care and control agencies (shelters) each year
- 2.7 million healthy, adoptable cats and dogs are euthanized each year
- Only 1 out of 10 cats and dogs that enter animal care and control facilities is neutered or spayed when they arrive
- There are an estimated 70 million stray cats in the US alone
- Each year, only 2% to 5% of cats and 30% of dogs are reclaimed from shelters by their owners

Almost 94% of adopted pets stay in a forever home if they’ve had a veterinary visit!
Even more troubling numbers

- There are approximately 74.1 million cats and 70 million dogs in the United States\(^4\)
- In 2011, 45% of cats did not receive veterinary care\(^4\)
- In 2011, veterinary visits for cats totaled 60.5 million compared to 130.4 million visits for dogs\(^4\)
- 91% of dogs and 85% of cats over the age of 3 have dental disease\(^5\)
- Obesity affects 1 in 5 cats and dogs\(^5\)
- The prevalence of diabetes mellitus in dogs has doubled over the past 5 years\(^5\)

References:

For more information and to download useful resources to help start a connection in your community, visit [www.catalystcouncil.org/connection](http://www.catalystcouncil.org/connection).
Partnerships for the common good

See how joining forces can benefit your clinic and your community.

Adoption organizations and veterinary practices that establish working relationships can have a measurable impact on the animals they care for and the community they serve.

**Working together means everyone wins!**

- Shelters are able to place cats and dogs in homes with greater confidence that the pet will not be abandoned.
- Veterinary clinics see new pet owners earlier and gain additional clients while helping instill responsible ownership from the start.
- Pet owners view adoption organizations and veterinary practices as partners in maintaining the health and well-being of their pets.
- The community benefits when more animals are placed in homes with responsible pet owners.
- Veterinarians will recommend adoption organizations when clients seek new pets.

**Getting owners off to the right start**

By establishing a positive working relationship with your local adoption organization(s), you will have an opportunity to educate new pet owners on the importance of responsible pet ownership. Helping new owners understand the importance of regular wellness visits to your practice will give their pet a better chance at living a long and healthy life and help you gain valuable, long-term clients.

**Don’t miss out on the benefits of working together!**

The first step in creating a successful partnership with your local adoption organization is starting a dialogue. It takes commitment, but consistent communication, sharing information, establishing common goals, and building trust will help build an effective coalition that supports your practice, your community, and your client—the new pet owner.

For more information

Catalyst Connection has created a number of useful materials that veterinarians can use to open avenues of communication and begin building this partnership. Visit [www.catalystcouncil.org/connection](http://www.catalystcouncil.org/connection) today to download those tools.
Plan for success
See how joining forces can benefit your organization and your community.

Adoption organizations and veterinary practices that establish working relationships can have a measurable impact on the animals they care for and the community they serve.

Working together means everyone wins!

- Shelters are able to place cats and dogs in homes with greater confidence that the pet will not be abandoned.
- Veterinary clinics see new pet owners earlier and gain additional clients while helping instill responsible ownership from the start.
- Pet owners view adoption organizations and veterinary practices as partners in maintaining the health and well-being of their pets.
- The community benefits when more animals are placed in homes with responsible pet owners.
- Veterinarians will recommend your adoption organization when clients seek new pets.

Good for owners and your organization

Partnering with local veterinary practices will give you an opportunity to educate new pet owners on the importance of regular veterinary visits. Why is that important? Because indicators point to the fact that owners who take their new pet to a veterinarian shortly after adoption are less likely to return the animal to the adopting agency. Helping adopters develop responsible pet ownership routines, including regular veterinary visits, gives their pet a better chance at living a long and healthy life in a forever home.

Don’t miss out on the benefits of working together!

The first step in creating an effective partnership with local veterinary practices is opening the lines of communication. Consistent communication, sharing information, establishing common goals, and building trust will help you both support another, and perhaps most importantly, the new pet owner.

For more information

Catalyst Connection has created a number of useful materials that adoption organizations can use to open avenues of communication and begin building this partnership.

Visit www.catalystcouncil.org/connection today to download those tools.
Here are a few successful partnerships that are making a positive impact in their communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shelter</th>
<th>Local veterinarians</th>
<th>Initiatives</th>
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| Kansas Humane Society  
Wichita, Kansas | Wichita VMA | • Created a joint committee between the shelter board and local veterinarians to help keep communication channels open  
• Developed a brochure for pet adopters and donor-subsidized clinic patrons that establishes the importance of developing a relationship with a regular veterinarian  
• Send out a bi-monthly newsletter to local veterinarians to remind them of shelter services and programs, etc. |
| Nebraska Humane Society (NHS)  
Omaha, Nebraska | Greater Omaha Veterinary Association (GOVA) | • GOVA holds regular meetings at NHS  
• Hospitals provide free health exams for newly adopted pets  
• Hold regular microchipping events at local hospitals  
• Provide subsidized spay/neuter for public animals  
• Several clinics provided services at reduced fees as well as accepted NHS vouchers  
• Developed a shelter medicine intern program with Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine |
| Baltimore Animal Welfare Alliance  
Baltimore, Maryland | Cat Hospital At Towson (CHAT) | • Created and organized the “Baltimore 500” event, an Adopt-A-Cat Month initiative held each June  
• Facilitated the adoption of 500 cats across all members of the Alliance  
• Free health exams are offered by local cat practice |
| Albuquerque Humane  
Albuquerque, New Mexico | Area veterinarians | • Provided free initial examination and postage-paid postcards for reporting the health status of adopted pets (samples online) |
| Lexington Humane Society  
Lexington, Kentucky | Lexington Hospital for Cats | • Provided “Test your Cat IQ” services at the Mutt Strut dog walk event |
| Noah’s Ark Animal Welfare Association  
Ledgewood, NJ | Area practices | • Host a hotline for referrals  
• Track spay/neuter success |

5 ways to make a difference in your area

• Offer discounted medical services for shelter animals  
• Hang signage “Adopted Pets Need Vets”  
• Display posters of sheltered animals that need a home  
• Provide free health exams for newly adopted pets  
• Include information for pet wellness and preventative health care examinations and list of local veterinarians

We want to hear how your partnership is thriving!  
Visit www.catalystcouncil.org/connection to submit your story.
Times change, and so do labels. But we sometimes forget to use terms that make others feel comfortable and respected. Understanding what current terms to use can help build stronger relationships with a partnering clinic or adoption organization. Here is a list of words or phrases that are often misused, along with some acceptable alternatives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Now we say this</th>
<th>Used to say this</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal care and control facility*</td>
<td>Dog pound, shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinarian</td>
<td>Vet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open admission shelter</td>
<td>Kill shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited admission shelter</td>
<td>No-kill shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinations</td>
<td>Shots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal control officer</td>
<td>Dog catcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidized healthcare</td>
<td>Low-cost clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donor subsidized; co-pay</td>
<td>Low-cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euthanize</td>
<td>Kill, put to sleep, destroy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complimentary</td>
<td>Free</td>
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</tbody>
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*Municipal and private facilities frequently provide additional services beyond sheltering animals. The term “shelter” is still commonplace and readily recognized and for that reason is used throughout the Catalyst Connection materials.

For more information and to download useful resources to help start a connection in your community, visit [www.catalystcouncil.org/connection](http://www.catalystcouncil.org/connection).
Here are a few useful materials that can help you discover ways to develop stronger partnerships and improve your efforts toward reaching your goals.

**Coalition Building for Animal-Care Organizations**  
By Katherine A. McGowan—Published by the Humane Society Press

This piece describes how building an alliance can maximize the positive impact of animal-related organizations on their communities. The author demonstrates how putting aside differences and focusing on a common objective empowers a group’s effort for tackling difficult problems.

**Communities as Shelters: Examining America’s Pet Overpopulation Crisis. Controversy and Solutions**  
By Tracy Coppola—Published by the American Humane Association

This paper is the result of a 2-year endeavor to examine “no-kill” shelters in response to euthanasia of healthy or treatable animals.

**Switch: How to Change Things When Change Is Hard**  
By Chip Heath and Dan Heath—Published by Random House

By the bestselling authors of *Made to Stick*, this book helps readers learn how to identify bright spots in any situation and work forward from there. The book includes compelling examples of successful changes and common patterns.

**Keeping Pets in Homes: A Three-Phase Retention Study**  
Published by the American Humane Association

The 3-phase study takes an in-depth look at the mentality of pet owners toward pet ownership and pet health. It also demonstrates reasons why certain pets are more likely to remain in their adopted homes and suggests ways to improve the current retention rate.

**US Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook (2012)**  
Published by the American Veterinary Medical Association

This annual report focuses on the current pet population in the United States. It details the number of owned pets, average number of veterinary visits, average veterinary expenses, and more for companion animals.
Partnership materials
Finding the right partner

Getting started is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. **Reach out.**
   - Set up a mutually agreeable time to speak directly with a local veterinary clinic or adoption organization. You could start with an email or letter, but phone calls or face-to-face meetings are more personal and generally more effective.

2. **Host an initial meeting.**
   - Hold a meeting at a local restaurant, park, golf course, etc
   - Each party should list and define their concerns
     - Share and understand each other’s mission
   - Each party should identify key stakeholders in the community
     - Who are the champions?
     - Who/what are the barriers to success?
   - Each party should define what they would consider a successful partnership
   - Share what you’ve prepared and discuss
   - Come to an agreement on how you will work together and sign a memorandum of agreement

3. **Host a community meeting.**
   - Invite other veterinarians, animal care and control facility staff, rescue organization leaders, and stakeholders to your facility
   - Promote the initiative and tactics
   - Assign roles and responsibilities
   - Define a timeline, budget, communication plan, and metrics
   - Schedule a time to regroup and reevaluate your goals at a later date

For more information and to download useful resources to help start a connection in your community, visit [www.catalystcouncil.org/connec](http://www.catalystcouncil.org/connec).
Dear [insert name of the adoption organization],

Thank you for your dedication to caring for animals in need within our community. Your work continues to play a major role in helping find good forever homes and loving pet owners for lost, abandoned, and disregarded pets. As a local veterinary clinic, we are inspired by your commitment.

I’m writing today to let you know that I feel confident that the combination of your passion and our veterinary medical expertise present a unique opportunity to achieve our independent goals and the goals that we share as animal care professionals. By working together, we can help spread awareness, increase compliance, and make a significant impact within our community.

Studies have shown that 1 in 10 pets is no longer in the home 6 months after adoption.\(^1\) A major factor cited in pets being returned to animal care facilities is lack of veterinary care for the pet.\(^2\) Here at [insert name of clinic] we strongly believe that by educating pet owners on the importance of proper veterinary care, we can help keep more pets in caring homes and give animals a chance to live long, healthy lives with loving families.

Our clinic is participating in the Catalyst Connection, a new program designed to create an alliance between animal shelters, rescue organizations, and veterinary clinics that will be proactively working together to make a difference.

We are hoping to [insert goal ie, “We would like to adopt 100 cats in June and make setting up a veterinary visit within 2 weeks of adoption part of the adoption process”].

I sincerely hope you join us in this effort. If you are interested in learning more, please email me at [insert email address] or call me at [insert phone number] so I can tell you more about this innovative program. You can also visit www.catalystcouncil.org/connection to download useful resources that will help you decide if this is the right program for your facility.

Sincerely,

[Insert name]

References:

Dear [insert name of the veterinary clinic],

First of all, let me thank you for your efforts to care for animals within our community. Your work continues to play a major role in keeping pets healthy, lowering the spread of disease, and instilling responsible pet ownership in your clients. As a local animal shelter, we are inspired by your passion for your profession and your commitment to animals.

We are confident that by combining your expertise and our commitment, we have a unique opportunity to achieve both our independent goals and the goals that we share as animal care professionals. By working together, we can help spread awareness, increase compliance, and make a significant impact within our community.

Studies have shown that 1 in 10 pets is no longer in the home 6 months after adoption.¹ A major factor in pets being returned to animal care facilities is lack of veterinary care for the pet.² Here at [insert name of organization], we strongly believe that by educating pet owners on the important of proper veterinary care, we can help keep more pets in caring homes, and give animals a chance to live long, healthy lives with loving families.

Our organization is participating in the Catalyst Connection, a new program designed to create an alliance between animal shelter, rescue organizations, and veterinary clinics that will be proactively working together to make a difference.

We are hoping to [insert goal ie, “We would like to adopt 100 cats in June and make setting up a veterinary visit within 2 weeks of adoption part of the adoption process”].

I sincerely hope you join us in this effort. If you’re interested in learning more, please email me at [insert email] or call me at [insert phone number] so I can tell you more about this innovative program. You can also visit www.catalystcouncil.org/connection to download useful resources that will help you decide if this is the right program for your clinic.

Sincerely,

[Insert name]

References:
Introduction
This agreement is designed to help you define what’s important to you, your facility, and the veterinary clinics you’ll be working with in your community. Feel free to use this as a template and to add or adjust so it meets your needs and/or situation.

Purpose
The purpose of this agreement is to formalize the cooperative relationship between [insert name of adoption organization] and [insert name of veterinary clinic or association]. The goal of this partnership is to strengthen the efforts of both entities as they look to make a positive impact on the animal population of their community.

Membership Commitments
By signing this agreement, both parties agree to:
• Work together to promote responsible pet owner habits within the community, the most important of which is health and welfare
• Establish common goals that serve to benefit both parties involved, the animals, and the community
• Communicate important information and share new developments
• Promote awareness of the joint effort within the community in order to secure pet owner and public support

Signatory
As the principal official of this organization, I certify that the organization will comply with the membership commitments of the Catalyst Connection stated herein.

Name and Title of Organization Representative

Organization Date

Name and Title of Organization Representative

Organization Date
Pet owner materials
Preparing a healthy homecoming for your cat!

Use this guide to learn how to care for your newly adopted family member.

This booklet offers helpful tips on:

• Gathering important items
• Cat-proofing your house
• Developing healthy habits
Congratulations on adopting your new cat!

To help make your cat’s transition into his or her new home an easy one, keep in mind that cats may need a little more reassurance than dogs, so check out this list of items that you may need.

**A cat-proofed room** — When you first bring your cat home, prepare a small room such as a bathroom for your new cat’s first few nights. Remove any plants and cleaning supplies that could be poisonous to your cat. Provide a soft bed in an elevated location, litter box, a post or box for scratching, water, and food for your cat to access. Having a quiet space, areas to hide, and calming pheromone products will help your new cat get used to his or her surroundings.

**Food** — Many veterinarians recommend a variety of foods, including both dry and canned options. A proper diet is important if your cat is on patrol for mice and laser pointers or even just curling up for an all day cat nap. Talk to your veterinarian about what cat food he or she recommends and how much your cat should get each day.

**Toys** — Having plenty of toys to keep your cat busy while you’re gone will keep him or her both mentally and physically fit. A scratching post is also a must and will help cats remove an outer layer of their nails, mark their territory, and have a little fun. That way, your beautiful Persian doesn’t ruin your Persian rug!

**Collar/grooming items** — Most pets that are adopted from animal care facilities have microchips implanted to help identify them. A collar with ID tags is just as important and can help others quickly determine who your cat belongs to. A brush for grooming, toothbrush, and nail clippers are all necessary to keep your cat looking and feeling great.

**Scents** — Smell is one of a cat’s most powerful senses. That’s why your new cat has most likely already rubbed his or her scent against you to mark you as a safe and friendly person. Pheromone plug-ins, sprays, or wipes produce scents that help calm your cat. Placing these in areas that your cat spends a significant amount of time can help it feel secure and comfortable while they get used to your home.

Adjusting to a new environment can be difficult for some cats. That is especially true when a cat is introduced to other pets in the home. If not properly addressed, these issues can lead some pet owners to return their cats to the shelter. If you begin training immediately, socialize your cat often, and get it accustomed to its carrier by leaving it out, you will help him or her relax and learn good manners around guests and other animals.
From kittens to seniors, all cats need regular veterinary examinations and care. Here’s a list of common kitty healthcare needs:

**KITTEN**
- Nutritional assessment and feeding recommendations
- Initial vaccinations
- Spaying/neutering
- Advice on feeding
- Begin parasite preventative (even if indoors only)
- Environment and litter box needs
- Toys and training
- Dental care

**ADULT**
- Nutritional assessment and feeding recommendations
- Annual vaccinations
- Annual internal parasite testing
- Parasite preventative
- Basic health screenings
- Dental checkups

**SENIOR**
- Nutritional assessment and feeding recommendations
- Parasite preventative
- Laboratory tests (blood work, urinalysis, etc)
- Skin and coat evaluations
- Range of motion evaluation for arthritis
- Monitor weight changes
- Dental checkups

Developing a routine will help your cat catch on to the rules of the house and help ensure he or she lives a healthy lifestyle. Daily exercise and playtime will help keep your cat's weight under control and give them something to look forward to. Developing a good relationship with your veterinarian is one of the most important things you can do for your cat. Regular visits to the clinic will give your veterinarian a chance to identify problems early and give you valuable advice to help your pet and your pocketbook!
Caring for your new best friend.

Adopting a cat is one of the most rewarding things you can do. This is an exciting time for everyone! To help you get off to a healthy start, you’ll need to make sure your friends, family, and home are ready to welcome your new addition.

Setting up a safe, friendly environment and staying in frequent contact with your veterinarian will give you and your new cat the best chance at a long and wonderful friendship.

Talk to your veterinarian to learn more about your cat’s needs and ways to care for him or her long into the future.
Preparing a healthy homecoming for your dog!

Use this guide to learn how to care for your newly adopted family member.

This booklet offers helpful tips on:
- Gathering important items
- Dog-proofing your house
- Developing healthy habits
Congratulations on adopting your new dog!

Gaining a new family member is always exciting. To help make your dog’s transition into his or her new home an easy one, check out this list of items that you may need.

**A soft bed** — Dogs love dark, warm dens to fall asleep in. A crate that is only large enough to stand up and turn around in is all the space they need. This will help prevent puppies that are not yet house trained from using their crates as bathrooms.

**Food and snacks** — Selecting the right nutritionally balanced dog food is essential to helping your new friend grow up and stay strong and healthy. Talk to your veterinarian about what dog food is best for your dog. As you begin training, give your dog healthy training snacks to reward him or her for good behavior. Healthy dental chews can give puppies something to alleviate the pain of teething and help prevent dental disease in all dogs. Never feed your dog leftovers. They can make your dog sick, and you’ll probably want them for lunch the next day anyway.

**Collar and leash** — Retractable leashes can encourage your dog to pull and lead you around the block, limiting your control. A 6-foot, woven or leather leash is perfect for training your dog to stay next to you during walks. A flat, buckle collar should be kept on to display your dog’s ID and rabies tags.

**Toys** — Pull toys, ropes, and balls can help your dog get important exercise but should be kept out of reach until you are ready to play. This will prevent your dog from swallowing anything they shouldn’t. Make sure any toys intended for comfort in your absence are durable, soft, and safe.

**Baby gates** — A new home means all new places and things to explore. Baby or pet gates can help keep your dog out of areas that are off-limits and protect them from harmful materials that contain dangerous toxins.

Behavioral issues are fairly common for dogs that are adjusting to a new environment. Unfortunately, these issues can lead some pet owners to return their dogs to the shelter. If you begin training immediately and socialize your dog often, it will help him or her relax and learn good manners around guests and other animals. Your veterinarian can provide tips on ways to help your new pet adjust quickly and comfortably.
Dogs are creatures of habit. So, developing a routine will help them catch on to the rules of the house and help you ensure your dog lives a healthy lifestyle. Daily walks and playtime will help keep your dog’s weight under control and give them something to look forward to. Your veterinarian will recommend how much exercise your dog needs per day based on age, size and breed, and health status. Developing a good relationship with your veterinarian is one of the most important things you can do for your dog. Regular visits to the clinic will give your veterinarian a chance to identify problems early and give you valuable advice to help your pet and your pocketbook!

Creating a healthy, happy life for your dog.

From puppies to seniors, all dogs need regular veterinary examinations and care. Here’s a list of common doggie healthcare needs:

**PUPPY**
- Nutritional assessment and feeding recommendations
- Initial vaccinations
- Deworming
- Spaying/neutering
- Begin flea, tick, and heartworm preventatives
- Toys and training
- Dental care

**ADULT**
- Nutritional assessment and feeding recommendations
- Annual vaccinations
- Annual internal parasite testing
- Parasite preventatives
- Basic health screenings
- Dental checkups

**SENIOR**
- Nutritional assessment and feeding recommendations
- Parasite preventatives
- Laboratory tests (blood work, urinalysis, etc)
- Skin and coat evaluations
- Range of motion evaluations for arthritis
- Monitor weight changes
- Dental checkups
Caring for your new best friend.

Adopting a dog is one of the most rewarding things you can do. This is an exciting time for everyone! To help you get off to a healthy start, you’ll need to make sure your friends, family, and home are ready to welcome your new addition.

Setting up a safe, friendly environment and staying in frequent contact with your veterinarian will give you and your new dog the best chance at a long and wonderful friendship.

Talk to your veterinarian to learn more about your dog’s needs and ways to care for him or her long into the future.
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR FOREVER FRIEND!

This voucher entitles you to a complimentary veterinary examination for your newly adopted pet. This exam has been donated by your veterinarian to help you and your new pet get started on a healthy path to a wonderful future together.

(Valid _______ days from date of adoption.)

Owner name: __________________________________________________________________________

Pet’s name: __________________________________________ Microchip ID #: __________________________

☐ Dog ☐ Cat ☐ Other

You chose __________________________________________ as your veterinarian and their phone number is ________-_______-_____________. Please call today for your complimentary health exam appointment!

Date of appointment: _____________________________

Establishing healthy habits early will help you give your new pet the best chance at a long and happy life, because pets that receive regular veterinary care live longer. That’s why scheduling a veterinary visit as soon as possible after you adopt a new pet is so important. Your first visit will also help you establish a relationship with your veterinarian that will last for the life of your pet.

While this voucher does not cover any medications, vaccines, or procedures that your new pet may need, it will provide you with the peace of mind you need to know you’re starting off with a healthy animal. Your veterinarian can also help answer questions you have about your new pet and give you some excellent pointers to make the transition from the adopting agency to your home a lot easier.

At the end of your visit, don’t forget to schedule your next wellness exam so that any health concerns can be caught early.

Questions you might want to ask your veterinarian:

• What should I feed my new pet? How much? And how often?
• What do I need to know about toilet and behavior training?
• What vaccines and parasite prevention does my new pet need?
• Which pet health insurance companies do you recommend?
• How does a microchip help my pet?
• Why are regular checkups important?
Dear Colleague:

Thank you for agreeing to help pet owners and their new pets get off to a great start by offering a complimentary initial examination and for being a part of the Catalyst Connection program to provide pets lifelong care. This initiative is helping us determine if a post-adoption health exam helps establish a bond between you and the owner and prevents the pet from being relinquished back to the adopting agency.

Please contact the owner if they have not already scheduled an appointment to ensure compliance with the exam. The voucher provided to the owner does not cover the administration of medications, vaccines, or procedures that the pet may need.

Once you complete your examination, please fill out this health exam certificate, email or fax it to the contact information provided at the bottom of this form, and provide a copy to the pet owner to help us confirm the continuation of care for this pet after they leave the adopting organization.

Please print:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Veterinary practice name</th>
<th>Veterinarian’s name</th>
<th>Veterinarian’s phone number</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of examination</th>
<th>Temperature (°F)</th>
<th>Weight (lbs)</th>
<th>Body condition score (1–5)</th>
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</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>Examination</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General appearance and attitude</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mouth/dental</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skin</td>
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<td>Digestive system</td>
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<td>Musculoskeletal</td>
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<td>Lymph nodes</td>
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<td>Nervous system</td>
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<td>Heart</td>
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<td>Eyes</td>
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<td>Respiratory</td>
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<td>Ears</td>
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<td>Urogenital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mucous membranes</td>
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<td>Endocrine/other</td>
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</table>

A = Abnormal

Comments on the examination/next steps:

Value of exam: ___________________________ Next visit date: ___________________________

Please scan and email to: ___________________________
OR
Fax to: ___________________________  –  ___________________________

Place shelter logo here
Keeping your cat’s health record can help you give him or her the best chance at staying healthy. Bring this form with you to your veterinary clinic and have a staff member fill in the appropriate information to help you stay on top of your cat’s vaccination and other health needs.

### Cat Health Tracker

**Core vaccinations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccination</th>
<th>1 year</th>
<th>2 years</th>
<th>3 years</th>
<th>4 years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distemper/Panleukopenia</td>
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<td>Rhinotracheitis</td>
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<td>Calicivirus</td>
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**Lifestyle vaccinations**

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<th>2 years</th>
<th>3 years</th>
<th>4 years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feline leukemia</td>
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<td>Feline bordetella</td>
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**Other examinations**

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<th>Examination</th>
<th>1 year</th>
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<td>Physical examination</td>
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<td>Heartworm test</td>
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Cat’s name: ____________________________________________

Breed: __________________________ Birth date: ____________

Microchip ID #: __________________________

Veterinarian’s name: __________________________

Clinic address: __________________________

Clinic phone #: __________________________

Clinic email address: __________________________

Emergency animal hospital phone #: __________________________
Keeping your dog’s health record can help you give him or her the best chance at staying healthy. Bring this form with you to your veterinary clinic and have a staff member fill in the appropriate information to help you stay on top of your dog’s vaccination and other health needs.

**Dog Health Tracker**

Dog’s name: ____________________________________________________________

Breed: ___________________________ Birth date: ___________________________ Microchip ID #: ___________________________

Veterinarian’s name: ___________________________________________________

Clinic address: _________________________________________________________

Clinic phone #: ___________________________ Clinic email address: __________

Emergency animal hospital phone #: __________________________

| Core vaccinations | ___ weeks | ___ weeks | ___ weeks | 1 year | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years | 6 years | 7 years | 8 years | 9 years | 10 years | 11 years | 12 years | 13 years | 14 years |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Adenovirus type 2 |           |           |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Coronavirus       |           |           |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Distemper         |           |           |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Parainfluenza     |           |           |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Parvovirus        |           |           |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Rabies            |           |           |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |

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<tr>
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<th>___ weeks</th>
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Fillable PDF available at www.catalystcouncil.org/connection