



### Nothing is working. What next?

Even after following this guide the new pet is not working out you can always contact the Shenango Valley Animal Shelter for advice and resources.

- Animals may be returned within 14 days free of charge
- After 14 days animals may be returned only as owner surrenders
- We do not require animals adopted from our facility return so you are able to make arrangements on your own if you are not comfortable returning an animal to the shelter

Contact a professional dog trainer to assist in the transition

- Dogsmartz Unleashed - (330) 707-4160

## Who We Are

### About Us

Shenango Valley Animal Shelter provides animal control and stray animal care to seven municipalities in the Shenango Valley. Additionally we act as a resource center for all animal needs providing adoptions, advice, and references for community needs beyond our ability. Our mission is to provide community safety, policy advisement, and to ensure every pet's unique story has a happily ever after.

### Contact Us

Phone: (724) 342-5834

Email: [amammare@yahoo.com](mailto:amammare@yahoo.com)

Web: [sv-as.com](http://sv-as.com)



Shenango Valley Animal Shelter  
2599 Broadway Rd.  
Hermitage, PA 16148

## New Adopter



## Brochure

Shenango  
Valley  
Animal  
Shelter

*Ensuring every pet's story has a happily ever after.*



## Congratulations on your new pet!

### First time pet owner or an experienced adopter, there are a few things we'd like to let you know

Adopting a pet is a lifetime responsibility. As such, we have tried to communicate the gravity of your decision throughout the adoption process.

Adjusting to a new pet, especially adopting one that did not receive ideal training, can be difficult. This brochure is meant to help you navigate this transition period so your new best friend can live happily ever after.

### When your pet first comes home

Remember you can't treat your new pet like you treat one you've had for years. Always keep your new pet in sight at first, stay with them at home as much as possible at first and go outside with them on leash in regular intervals

### Routine

Your new pet will be much happier in a routine. However, they're most used to the shelter routine right now so get them started on your feeding, sleeping, and bathroom schedule instantly. There will be accidents at first, but with patience and commitment they will learn.

### Redirecting

Remember that the animals we adopt out often have questionable origins. It is important when correcting behavior to not punish your pet at first as they will likely just become fearful. Tell them "No" in a stern voice and correct the behavior. If they have a bathroom accident, tell them "No" and take them outside with you. If they hyper and jumping, tell them "No" and make them sit for a toy to redirect them.

### Crating Dogs

Dogs from the shelter will be used to sleeping in a crate and this is not inhumane. Keeping your new dog in a crate with a decent bed while you are sleeping and out of the house will protect your home from damage, keep the dog from possibly being returned, and give the dog their own little space.

### Behavior

By keeping your new animal under a watchful eye at first and establishing a routine most behavioral issues can be mitigated. Remember that your new animal has its own unique history that often is not known. It will be your responsibility to train the dog to be a fitting new member of your family.

Your new friend may have issues with the transition from shelter life to home life, but this is to be expected as any human would have issues as well. It is important to remain patient with your new pet and be cautious as they are introduced to strangers.

Common sense can go a long way in resolving behavioral issues. If your new animal is extremely protective over a new toy or bone, remove the toy or bone and do not give them something similar again.

### Health

All animals from the shelter are fixed and up to date on their rabies and DAPP/DHPP vaccines. This does not mean however that the animal is in perfect health. The animal may be underweight from the stress in the shelter, or overweight from their previous life experience. They also may have medical issues that were undetected. Therefore, it is important to get your new pet to your vet as soon as possible.

Establishing a relationship with a veterinarian will also allow you to avoid major costs later on if an emergency should arise. Additionally, your new animal will also need their rabies and DAPP/DHPP Booster within a year.