

Pets Without Partners



Madeline



Roxy



Kolt

Love is waiting just around the corner for you with these “pets without partners.” Beautiful **Roxy** was rescued from the river in Arizona. She has a very beautiful, tri-colored coat with a great looking face. She is approximately 12 months old. Roxy is on her way to being housebroken at her foster home and plays well with other dogs. She is a little shy at first, but give her a few minutes and she is all over you. She has a very sweet, friendly, tail-wagging personality. Roxy is current on her vaccinations, microchipped and spayed.

Kolt is a little Shepherd mix and is as cute as a button. He is your typical happy-go-lucky little guy who likes to run and play. He was found sleeping in the middle of the street and his owners were never located. Kolt is sweet, friendly, joyful, cuddly, and his tail is always wagging. He will probably grow up to be a nice medium-sized family dog. Kolt is current on his vaccinations, microchipped and will be neutered soon.

Madeline is an endearing three-year-old Chihuahua who was owner-surrendered due to the economy. She is a little one, weighing only 5 1/2 pounds, but she is a really great

little dog. She is friendly with all other dogs and cat-safe as well. Madeline loves people and is a total lapdog. She is housebroken and very, very sweet. Madeline is current on her vaccinations, microchipped and will be spayed soon.

To learn more about these and other wonderful dogs and cats, visit our website at www.animalsrule.org. Or come to our Saturday adoption events from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 305 North Harbor Boulevard, San Pedro. Look for the big, red, brick building just past the corner of O’Farrell. Our website is always current. If the dog’s picture is on this website, it is still available. E-mail is the best way to communicate with us: info@animalsrule.org. We are always in need of donations for veterinarian bills and our senior dogs. Donations can be made through our website or by sending a check payable to: Animals Rule Placement Foundation at 305 North Harbor Blvd. San Pedro, CA 90731. All donations are tax- deductible. We are a registered 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

Saving one animal won’t change the world, but the world will surely change for that animal.



Do’s and Don’ts for Dog Parks

For those of you not familiar with dog parks, a dog park is a fenced public area where dogs can legally run off-leash and play with other dogs under the supervision of their human guardians. A dog park is a playground for pet-loving people and their dogs.

Dog parks are among the most utilized parks in our City. They are a great way for dogs to exercise and burn off some of that pent up energy that otherwise may be used at home to chew up your shoes or other precious items. It’s also a great way for you to meet your dog owner neighbors.

Here are some health tips and etiquette while visiting a dog park.

Before your dog’s first visit to a dog park, make sure he/she is legally licensed, vaccinated and wearing a collar and tags. You may want to keep a copy of his or her vaccine history with you.

Have a plan should an emergency occur such as a fight injury or an allergic reaction. Know your veterinarian’s hours of operation and have their phone number handy. Ask your veterinarian where they refer should an emergency occur after hours.

Do not bring dogs under four months old to the dog park. Their immune system may not be fully developed and could be more susceptible to viruses and parasites.

Keep your pet on flea prevention at least monthly. You may want to talk to your veterinarian about combining flea medications to increase its effectiveness.

Have your pet tested for heartworm and internal parasites and use prevention medicine every month. These medicines are very safe, effective and are not expensive. Virtually all monthly heartworm medication will prevent some of the most common intestinal parasites, such as roundworms and hookworms. These worms are found in the feces of other dogs and in the soil. They are not only dangerous for your dog, they are zoonotic, meaning they can cause disease in people also, especially children and immunocompromised individuals.

It is a good idea to get a microchip for

your dog. These chips are easy to place by a veterinarian and are surprisingly affordable. Besides a current nametag on the collar, microchips are the best way to identify your pet should he or she go missing from the park.

Do not bring your dog to the park if he or she has an illness or has just recovered from being ill. They will be more susceptible to infections and parasites.

Your pet may still be infectious to other dogs even though they feel better. A dog that has kennel cough, for instance, will shed the disease at least two weeks after they stop coughing. Also, illness as benign as an ear infection could bring unwanted attention from other dogs. Remember, dogs have a sense of smell that is thousands of times better than ours.

Entering the gate: If there are two entry gates, do not open the outside gate if the inside gate is open.

Once inside the double gated area, remove your dog’s leash. Do not leave a leash on your dog while in the park. This may actually cause an altercation because your dog may feel restricted and more protective of you.

Do not bring an aggressive dog to a dog park.

Most dog parks have separate areas for large and small dogs. It’s **very important** to keep small dogs in the small dog area and large dogs in the large dog area.

If you see a dog fight occur, never reach your hands into the middle of the fight. Distract the dogs and divert their attention. A blast of water from a water bottle or a loud whistle may work.

Pay attention to your dog and be aware of where he/she is and what he/she is doing at all times.

Stay close enough to control or protect your dog in the face of a potential fight.

Dog parks are a great place for you and your furry friend to socialize. Following these simple tips will help make it a safe experience.

Dr. Greg Perrault owns and operates Cats & Dogs Animal Hospital in Long Beach, CA. •

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