

Spring 2023



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Our featured pets



Meet Diablo!



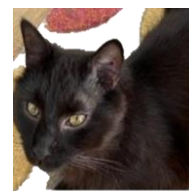
Hi, my name is Diablo but my foster mom calls me Marley, which we both think is a better fit! I am a Catahoula Leopard dog. I was found starving and scared in an abandoned house. Luckily my life turned around when I was rescued. I am now 1 year old, weigh a healthy 57 lbs., and have learned to trust people again.

I can still be quite shy when I first meet people, especially men, but I absolutely LOVE children! I really like some dogs but don't care for others. I play very well with the dogs I do like. I have met a couple of cats and am interested in them but leave them alone if they ask me to.

I am housebroken and can be trusted loose in the house when you're not home. (I do not like being crated.) I love romping around the yard with my favorite toy, relaxing and chewing on a bone or snuggling with my foster family. I am a quick learner and have been working on sit, stay, down, wait, watch, and leash manners.

My perfect forever family would include kids. I'd like a canine companion too, but it's not a requirement. I would do best in a home where I'm not left alone for long hours and I do need a fenced yard. Most importantly, I need my forever family to be patient with me while I get to know them and learn to trust them.

Meet Sparky & Tommy!



Sparky and Tommy were both rescued from Alabama. Tommy was having a difficult time adjusting after his rescue but things really changed when the vet placed him with Sparky. They really love each other. Sparky helped Tommy adjust even more. They are now a bonded pair.

Sparky is a 2-year-old male, Domestic medium-hair black kitty and weighs 7.7 lbs. He is very loving and likes to play. He enjoys exploring in the house and sitting on his foster mom's lap for pets. Watching the birds and squirrels outside and then taking a sunbath is his daily routine.

Tommy is a 3-year male, Domestic Shorthair black and grey Tabby and weighs 12 lbs. He had a small bump on his head when he came to us. It was determined by the vet that the bump was pellets so he had surgery to remove them. He is shy with new surroundings and takes time to adjust. You will need to be patient with him. He will hide until he knows you better.

They enjoy playing with each other and their toys, sleeping together, hanging out with each other and watching TV with their foster mom in the evenings.

If you are looking for a bonded pair of males, these are the two for you.

Spring has sprung in the doghouse

The Daffodils are rising, the beautiful Spring air surrounds us. We're brimming with the urge to go out doors with our fur babies and enjoy the weather. So put on their harness and leash and go get some exercise and make new friends.

Before stepping out the door, first assure your pet's health is protected from the diseases he might acquire while out such as heartworm, or infestations of fleas or ticks. Has he had all his vaccinations? If you're not sure what's needed, check with your veterinarian for guidance. Carry poop bags to clean up after your pet. Also be mindful of the heat of the spring sun. Check how hot the sidewalks and roads are and encourage Fido to walk on the grass when it's hot. Take along a cool bottle of water and collapsible dish so your dog can have a drink. Don't let him overheat even though it may not seem that hot.

Let your dog sniff and explore to his heart's content. You'll see other dogs your pup may be interested in meeting. Ease into this carefully. And ALWAYS keep your dog on leash. While still a distance away, greet the other dog's walker. Ask if their dog is friendly and if they'd like to let the dogs interact. If yes, walk your dog gradually toward the other dog. Watch both dogs' body language. If they are friendly, let them sniff each other which is the dog way to get acquainted. Should this go well, walk your dogs together so they become familiar with each other.

The more often you practice this exercise in meeting and greeting new dogs successfully, the more socialized your dog will become. Once the dogs have walked on leash a few days and become buddies, you might be inspired to create an area where they can romp and play off-leash. Your own yard might work as such a playground.

Once you've decided to use your outdoor area as a playground, decide how much space you want to devote and what you need to do to make it safe. Start by checking the greenery. Is your garden full of plants, including flowers and vegetables, that might be harmful to dogs? For example, Hostas are very common and easy to grow...AND TOXIC to dogs. Wild mushrooms must be avoided as they may be poisonous. Watch out for them

both in your yard and also when you are out for walks. You can find lists of toxic and non-toxic plants on the internet. To make the yard safe you can either fence off gardens so dogs can't reach them OR enclose a special area for your dog to use. Be careful if you need to eliminate any toxic weeds not to use weed killers (or fertilizers) that are toxic to dogs OR humans.

In deciding how much space to designate for dog use, consider how much running area you will use to play fetch, tossing frisbees or baseballs for your dog to race after? Do you want to make room for your dog and his new friends to chase each other and romp around? Or do you want a small "run" where your own dog can relax in the sunshine? Consider what type of enclosure you want. Keep in mind that you'll need to keep the area dogs are occupying clean. Add some outdoor games which you can invent, or find stocked in local or on-line pet stores. They will have a variety of enclosures, and games that will fit them. You might set up some tunnels or mazes for agility training.

If your whole yard is fenced, you could set up an area where people and dogs walking by can stop and say hello safely through a special window. However, do NOT let a new dog into your yard until that dog and yours have met on neutral ground outside the yard and made friends. Otherwise, your dog may be overwhelmed by a bit of territorial possessiveness. Once you have everything ready invite your dog's new pal into the enclosure. First remove any toy or food the dogs might get into a clash over. And then, as the beautiful spring breeze wafts through, one of the dogs may face the other, bend down with rump high in the air, thus issuing the universal doggie invitation: "LET'S PLAY!". And you'll know your spring project is a resounding success!



Ask Homer and Hope



Homer, how do lawn chemicals affect dogs?

Dogs are curious by nature. They love to smell or taste whatever captures their interest to learn more about their environment. Usually, they can walk away with new information and without much physical harm. That is not the scenario with lawn chemicals developed to fertilize grass, kill weeds, and promote the success of flower gardens. Every spring, home owners spread them in solid, liquid, or granular forms, and dog owners expose their pets to risks ranging from intestinal disorders to death from bladder cancer or lymphoma. Even if owners do not use lawn treatments, tests have proven that drifting occurs.

Commercially made fertilizers contain different amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, generally low-level toxicity. However, additives for herbicides, pesticides, insecticides, fungicides, and rodenticides can contain iron, calcium, sulfur, animal by-products, sewage-based fertilizer, and cocoa bean mulch that increase toxicity. An even bigger risk is if the dog smells the additives, gets into the fertilizer bag or container, and eats a large quantity. If you observe symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, shaking, seizures, or other unusual behavior, immediately call your veterinarian and let him take it from there. You should not induce vomiting unless directed by the vet.

What can you do to protect your dog? With moderation and care, lawn and garden products can be used safely. First, store bags and containers securely. If a service is used, get a list of ingredients in case of exposure. Next, follow directions for application exactly. Keep pets off the treated area for 48 hours or longer and discourage drinks from water puddles. Also, remove pet-related items from the treated areas. Try to apply to areas less frequently, and avoid walking on neighborhood lawns. Lastly, remove weeds by hand if possible.

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” when it comes to lawn chemicals. You must be aware that some are more harmful than others and use them carefully.

Hope, I have a new kitten and have not decided if I want to spay her or not. She is three months old and very lively. Will surgery make her less affectionate and playful?

Kittens are indeed lots of fun to watch and play with so the concern is understandable. The good news is that spaying or neutering a kitten does not alter their personality, in fact, there are many positive benefits.

Spaying before a female has her first heat, normally around 5 months, eliminates the risk of mammary, ovarian, and uterine cancers. It can prevent potentially fatal uterine infection called a pyometra and female kitten behavior changes are minimal.

Neutering a male cat can eliminate the possibility that he will develop testicular cancer as he ages as well as eliminate pesky behaviors such as spraying in the house, howling, and fighting. Your kitten will also be less motivated to try and escape confinement indoors to search for a mate and be more content at home snuggling with their owner.

You may think your kitten is too young, however, at 5 months an intact kitten can have kittens of her own. Cats were made to reproduce and can actually have 2-3 litters per year. We all want to do our part in controlling the homeless kitten population. Spaying and neutering can have risks as does any surgery. A thorough exam by your vet is recommended to discuss.

Fun fact

What do cats and dogs have in common?

It has been scientifically proven that both cats and dogs love their humans. Both kinds of pets usually prefer their owner's attention over food or treats, even if they are hungry. Both kinds of pets are attuned to their owner's moods and can become stressed if the owner is stressed.

Adopt, don't shop! Let's keep spreading the word!