

# PUPPY LOVE



Always wanted to own a pet but never took the time to get one as it was too expensive? The Humane Animal Society, Coimbatore, has a solution for you as they help stray animals in the city find a loving home with their monthly adoptathons. *Sherine Paul* finds out how you can own an adorable pooch of your own



**W**hat can you have in common with George Clooney, Charlize Theron, Bradley Cooper, Hillary Swank, Andrew Garfield, Taylor Swift, Orlando Bloom and Selena Gomez? The lives of a number of homeless dogs were changed by these celebrities as they adopted them and included them as a part of their family. Humane Animal Society (HAS) gives you the same opportunity as they vaccinate and

put street puppies up for adoption every month.

## HOW TO ADOPT

Mini Vasudevan, one of the founders of HAS, says, "The process of adoption of pets at HAS is elaborate and important as we take abandonment, neglect or abuse of animals very seriously." The procedure may seem long but it is rather simple. You have to register with the front desk where

your pet quotient is assessed via a simple questionnaire. A small sampling of the pertinent questions includes why you want to adopt a pet, where your pet will live, who all will have contact with the pet and how you plan on looking after your pet. Once you have filled out the form you are sent to be counselled. This is followed by the best part: you get to go and handpick the pet you would like to adopt.

## BASIC USEFUL TIPS

Pups are like babies, cute but a lot of hard work so be prepared for a lot of responsibility if you plan on adopting a puppy. While adoption may seem like a simple enough task, there are a few basic things that you need to buy for your pooch before taking them home. Two separate bowls for food and water are a vital necessity, a collar, leash and some bedding for them to lie on. You could additionally get an id tag for your dog. Also remember that your new pet may take some time to acclimatize to its new home as it is yet another move for dogs from a shelter to a home. Give them time to adapt and become part of the family. Follow the diet tips that have been given to you by HAS as the puppy will be used to a certain kind of diet. Avoid keeping toys, shoes and clothing within the dog's reach as this may just tempt it to do something naughty. Be firm with your pet but do not hit your dog even if an accident occurs in the house. Praising your pet and not punishing them is always the key to a well behaved dog. Watch out for anxiety, restlessness, shyness, anxiety, crying or barking. Also your new pet may tend to drink more water, urinate more and have a poor appetite over the first few days. If the symptoms last longer than a few days, contact your veterinarian immediately.

You have to train your dog so be consistent and patient while giving it commands.

Once your pet has adjusted to its new surroundings and feels at home, you will have another lovable member in your family. So adopt a pet and bring love, life and laughter into your home.



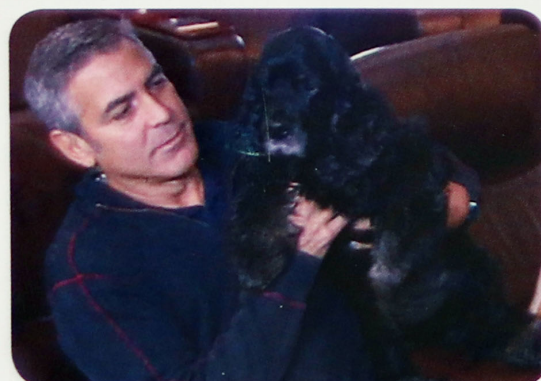
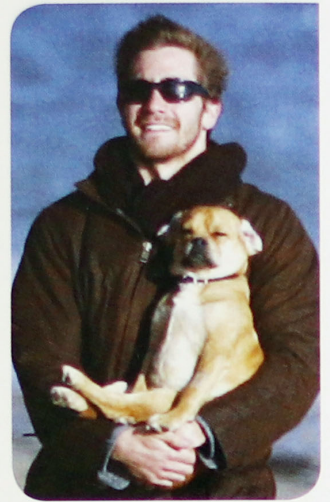
The main aim of putting dogs for adoption is that the numbers at shelters will dwindle. The main aim of HAS as an organization is to encourage people to adopt dogs that desperately require a home instead of heading to a pet store and buying a dog



An array of puppies of different ages, colours and sizes greets you from their cages. Some of the puppies are wide awake keeping on eye on the strangers walking in and out while some find comfort with their siblings and lie curled up one on top of the other fast asleep. To make identification easier male pups have a blue ribbon while females sport a yellow or orange bow. Once you have picked the puppy you are sent for a second counselling session where you are given information regarding their diet, daily care, grooming, behaviour, vaccinations and sterilization options. As new adopters you will also be given vaccination certificates, leaflets on dog care and information on when you can get your dog sterilized. Once all this is done open your heart and home to your adorable pooch (sometimes even a kitten), and for no cost at all.

## CELEB POOCHES

Amanda Seyfried adopted Finn  
Andrew Garfield adopted Ren  
Ryan Reynolds adopted Baxter  
Selena Gomez adopted Baylor  
Charlize Theron adopted Tucker  
Bradley Cooper adopted Charlotte  
Ryan Gosling adopted George  
George Clooney adopted Einstein  
Hillary Swank adopted Karoo and Rumi  
Jake Gyllenhall adopted Atticus and Boo  
Orlando Bloom adopted Sidi  
Matthew McConaughey adopted Foxy  
Rachel Bilson adopted Therman Merman





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### ADOPT A STRAY - SAVE A LIFE

The main focus of HAS is animal birth control which is a top priority with the organization; other activities include rescuing stray animals, creating awareness, conducting anti rabies camps and adoption camps. Celebrating their one year anniversary of adoptathons, HAS have helped 500 stray animals find homes, rehabilitated over 1000 animals since their inception in 2006 and performed 15,000 sterilizations to date. The main aim of putting dogs for adoption is that the numbers at shelters will dwindle. The main aim of HAS as an organization is to encourage people to adopt dogs that desperately require a home

instead of heading to a pet store and buying a dog. Mini also wants to dispel the myth surrounding female dogs, "Most people who come in always want to adopt a male dog but we are trying to create awareness about female dogs and how they are no trouble at all once they are sterilized. In fact they make better watch dogs compared to male dogs."

### OTHER WAYS TO HELP

While HAS actively works for the betterment of animals it is rather expensive business. The cost of neutering or spaying one dog and administering anti-rabies vaccination and the medical and feeding expenditure comes close to ₹450. You can opt to sponsor

one or multiple dogs as you see fit. If you are a dog lover and would like to be directly involved in the process you could become a member or volunteer with the organization and participate in different activities. Fostering puppies is something else that you can offer to do. Providing a puppy with a temporary home for 3-4 weeks until they are able to find a permanent loving home is another choice you can make. Mini says that HAS wishes to "be the difference that makes a difference".

For more information on the different causes undertaken by HAS you can visit their website [www.hasindia.org](http://www.hasindia.org)