



Heartland Animal Shelter
2975 Milwaukee Ave.
Northbrook, Illinois 60062
Tel 847-296-6400
Fax 847-296-4198
www.heartlandanimalshelter.net

Top 10 Reasons Heartland Dogs Are Returned - How You Can Avoid Being a Statistic

The vast majority of Heartland dog adoptions are successful. More dog adoptions than we'd like end up as a failed dog adoption with the dogs being returned to Heartland for a variety of reasons. Here are the top 10 avoidable reasons for failed adoptions or dog returns from February 2007 – February 2009.

- 1) Behavioral issues with the dog**
- 2) Allergies** – It is discovered that family members have dog allergies.
- 3) The dog needs too much attention**
- 4) Unrealistic expectations**
- 5) Aggressive to animals**
- 6) Aggressive to people and/or children**
- 7) Inadequate housing or yard**
- 8) Unable to train**
- 9) Temperament**
- 10) Not Housebroken**

The vast majority of those returns or failed adoptions could have been avoided with some planning, patience and common sense. The Heartland Web site contains a page called Pet Solutions with links to information on these issues.

When you adopt a dog from Heartland, your adoption counselor will give you a packet of information to read. **Please read all the handouts!** They contain important information about caring for and training your dog. If you have questions, by all means, ask your adoption counselor at the time you pick up your dog. The only stupid question is the one you should have asked but didn't.

Even if you are an experienced dog owner, a new dog needs time to adjust to new surroundings. For instance, even a fully housebroken dog may need time to adjust to your home and your routine. Let your dog know what behaviors you expect and what you don't like. Be patient. Your dog would rather stay with you than come back to Heartland.

If you are having problems with your dog and can't find a solution on your own (through training or research), please call Heartland and explain the situation. We will try to work with you to resolve the problem.

Heartland offers dog-training classes at the shelter. See the dog-training page for details. Also check throughout your community for other dog-training classes.