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Did You Know

dogs can be right or left-handed? Watch your dog steady its dish while eating, to learn which paw it favors. (Some are ambidextrous too!)

Why Hire a Dog Walker?



Many people use a dog walker for vacation care, so that their dog can stay in a familiar environment when they are away. However, there are plenty of other reasons to use a dog walker—even when you are in town!

Some days it can be complicated to own a dog in the fast-paced, urban environment of Chicago. With many of us working full-time, meeting our dogs' needs takes some help. That is where a professional dog walker comes in.

Every good dog guardian knows the importance of regular exercise. Having a dog walker provides the exercise that can prevent unwanted destructive behaviors at home. It also provides your canine companion with socialization, helping decrease separation anxiety. If your dog walker walks more than one dog at a time, this time can also be an opportunity for your dog to interact with others. Such interactions can help maintain your dog's social skills and thus prevent behavior issues in the future.

You should always get references and conduct an interview before hiring a dog walker. Ask lots of questions, including:

- ★ How many dogs on a group walk? The higher the number, the less individual attention your dog gets. The industry standard is 6 dogs at a time.
- ★ What size are the other dogs? When it comes to group dog walking, size does matter.
- ★ Do you accept intact dogs? An unaltered male dog is considered a threat by some neutered male dogs, leading to fighting.

Remember that a dog walker must be safety-conscious and trustworthy. The following should be red flags to you:

- ★ Large groups
- ★ Major difference in size or temperament within groups
- ★ Lack of experience
- ★ No liability insurance

A dog walker can be a real asset in your relationship with your dog. We urge you to research and choose the right partners—we highly recommend [Chicago Dog Walkers](#), a supporting sponsor of ARFhouse Chicago. They offer a discount for rescued dogs, too!

Events Calendar

Another sell-out success!

The Second Annual Alley Cat and Dog Bowl helped raise generous funds to support the animals of ARFhouse. Everyone had a great time bowling, while our darling [Dickens](#) and Marigold worked the crowd with their charm. Thanks to all our guests for your support! Our special appreciation goes out to [My Pie](#) for donating delicious pizzas, and to [Chicago Diner](#) for their scrumptious desserts. We anticipate this to be a yearly event—so keep practicing and we'll see you again next spring!



ARFhouse is hitting the city with our adoptable dogs! Join us at **Spotland Yard, 907 North Damen Ave. on Thursday May 1** for Lucky's Yappy Hour from 5-7 pm. Enjoy complimentary snacks and cocktails, shop the new pet boutique, and meet some adoptable dogs.

We'll also be at **PAWS, 1997 North Clybourn, on May 4 and May 17** from 11:30-4:30 with several dogs.

ARFhouse dogs will be making new friends at the Angels with Tails adoption event **June 1 on Michigan Avenue**. Enjoy a stroll on the Magnificent Mile, and meet some of our terrific pets!

Pet Health Corner: The Facts About Heartworm



Heartworm disease, transmitted by infected mosquitos, is common in dogs and cats. Heartworms clog the heart and major blood vessels, and can disrupt blood flow to the lungs, liver and kidney. If heartworm disease is not controlled, these organs may eventually fail.

Canine Heartworm

Although some regions have a higher rate of heartworm infection, dogs in all regions should be considered at risk. Treatment is a serious medical procedure, which requires the dog to be kept calm and quiet for several weeks. Fortunately, heartworm disease can be easily prevented by giving your dog a dose of preventatives each month. The American Heartworm Society recommends year-round prevention, so discuss the options and plan a prevention routine with your veterinarian.

Common signs of heartworm in dogs include:

- cough
- exercise intolerance
- difficulty breathing
- abnormal lung sounds
- enlargement of the liver
- temporary loss of consciousness, caused by restricted blood flow to the brain
- fluid accumulation in the abdominal cavity
- abnormal heart sounds

Feline heartworm

Although cats are more resistant than dogs, they are still susceptible to heartworm infection. Because of their small body size, cats with only a few worms are considered to be heavily infected. Heartworm infection in cats is harder to diagnose than it is in dogs, as clinical signs can be very non-specific, and may mimic many other feline diseases.

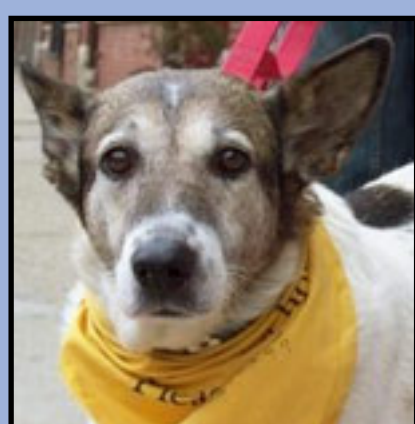
A cat with heartworms may exhibit generic signs of illness such as:

- vomiting
- lethargy
- lack of appetite
- coughing or gagging
- difficulty in breathing, panting

Currently, there are no approved treatments for feline heartworm infection. Testing and preventative options should be discussed with a veterinarian.

The good news is heartworm can be prevented and, for most dogs, successfully treated. ARFhouse Chicago routinely admits dogs with heartworm disease, like [our lucky Louis](#), who has found his forever home. These dogs are often euthanized at high-kill facilities due to treatment costs which average \$300 or more. You can [donate here](#) to help ARFhouse Chicago continue to accept and treat dogs diagnosed with heartworm disease.

Sally has her health— now she needs a home



Sweet Sally is what you could call a "turn-key" gal. She's already equipped with obedience skills, housetraining, and a huge heart. This happy girl is longing to share the life lessons she's learned—including the value of playing hard and loving hard.

Currently in foster care while recuperating from heartworm treatment, she's been taking it easy with her foster dad. He says "Sally is very respectful, submissive and eager to please. She's very good with other dogs and people. Sally adjusted to my home quite well. I will most certainly miss her when she finds her forever home—she's such a pleasure!" Please get to know Sally better in her [online profile](#).

Alumni Update: A happy ending for Dex & Diver!



Dex and Diver were brought to ARFhouse together from a pound in Kentucky. The young brothers needed a home with enough love for both of them. They hit the jackpot—and they let their new family know how grateful they are every day. Here's a note from their new mom:

"The boys are doing really well. They had their first trip to the vet yesterday, and he joked that we discovered a new breed of dog! They play like they're still puppies, always tackling each other from around corners. They sleep at night with my older daughter, then pick up a stuffed animal or two and bring them to me in the morning. They always come with gifts. They are very well-behaved, curious little boys and a perfect addition to our family."

We're so pleased for the boys—and we wonder what they'll bring their mom for Mother's Day!

Support ARFhouse with handcrafted natural candles



Did you know that soy candles are cruelty-free and better for the environment than traditional wax candles? Saxony Soy Candles are made without animal products, and burn longer while producing less soot than paraffin wax. They're the perfect eco-friendly yet luxurious gift—for Mother's Day, or any occasion.

Saxony Soy Candles is donating 5% of all proceeds to ARFhouse Chicago. Just visit [saxonysoycandles.com](#) and note "ARF" in the comments field when you check out. Then relax and enjoy!

The generous supporters who keep ARFhouse running

ARFhouse extends our special thanks to the following establishments. Please support these businesses who do so much to support animal welfare!

