 START MEDS PROCEDURE

As we move toward the goal of “No More Homeless Pets in Pearl River County” it is important to ensure that pets we place for adoption are both medically and behaviorally sound. The testing done during “Start Meds” will help to determine the specific outcome path an individual animal will utilize to exit the shelter. In order to reduce wasted medication, staff effort, kennel capacity, and shelter finances it is important to consider the animal’s potential for outcome as you work through each step of this process, rather than rushing through and skipping to the end.

1. Rescan **ALL** dogs for microchip.
2. Weight dog.
3. **Double** **check** gender and age, adjusting information if necessary.
4. HW Test
	1. If Positive: Continue to step 5 then discuss results with management
	2. If Negative: Consider Adoption/Transport Potential
		1. Fast Track: continue with start meds
		2. Slow Track: continue to step 5 then request second opinion from management
5. Preform a Dog/Dog evaluation
	1. Write notes on back of intake ticket
		1. If pass: continue to complete start meds
		2. If fail: Notify management to discuss animal’s outcome potential
6. Give weight appropriate medications:
	1. Diluted Ivomec (skip if HW+)
	2. Praziquantel (aka: worm out/ all wormer)
	3. Earmite meds
	4. Give rabies injection if over 12 weeks old (Circle "Y" but do not write date)
	5. Microchip Puppies: only if less than 4 months and under 15 pounds
7. Examine
	1. fur coat, eyes, ears, and bone structure
	2. note any unusual findings on the "Initial Exam” card.
	3. list coat colors on front of Medical Record card.
8. Take photograph of medical card, showing dog's name and ticket number.
9. Take 2 good, clear photographs of the dog
10. Perform BOA and record findings.
11. Bring all forms and camera to Supervisor when finished.

\* It might be helpful to start a BOA Sheet for each dog as you go to get it from the kennel, as much of the information needed for BOA is easiest to obtain during the normal course of Start Meds.