

10 things your dog needs to be happy, healthy and safe

NUTRITIOUS FOOD AND FRESH WATER

- puppies need to be fed several times a day. Adult dogs 1-2 times a day.
- Fresh water at all times. Make sure your dog can't knock his water dish over while you're gone!
- Healthy treats like all natural dog biscuits, apples, carrots., plain popcorn!
- Junk food isn't any better for your dog than it is for you!

VETERINARIAN CARE

- annual check ups just like you!
- Vaccinations protect dogs against diseases
- Dogs can get worm and should be checked for that and given medicine if needed
- RABIES. All dogs need to get Rabies shots. They can be given to pups as soon as they are 3 mths old. Rabies is a disease that is carried by mammals and people can get rabies! By vaccinating your dog against rabies you are also protecting yourself!
- Neuter if you are not planning on breeding your dog. No unwanted pups!

COMPANIONSHIP

- dogs are pack animals which means they like to live in groups or families like we do.
- Pups need someone home most of the time. You wouldn't leave a baby home alone – why leave a puppy? Adult dogs can spend some time alone during the day
- It is cruel to leave any age dog alone for long periods of time or tie him outside and ignore him.

EXERCISE

- dogs used to have jobs to do: herding, retrieving game, rat/mice control, estate guarding. They still have all the energy to do these things
- dogs shouldn't and can't be couch potatoes
- dogs who don't get enough exercise can be destructive, noisy, hyper and cranky. Think how you feel when you're cooped up inside too much!

TRAINING

- dogs need to learn manners so that they will fit in with their human family!
- Dogs should learn how to sit, lie down, come when called and walk politely on leash. (gentle leader, leash, flexi)
- They also need to be housetrained – potty and chewing (crate)
- Training should be done using rewards and praise. Never hit or yell at your dog – show them what you want to do instead! Ex. Don't yell at your dog for jumping, teach him to sit instead!
- Obedience classes are fun!

SOCIALIZATION

- dogs need to meet lots of friendly people so that they will like people and not be afraid of them
- most dogs enjoy playing with other dogs, but if they never get the chance to they will be afraid or aggressive around other dogs! Dogs should meet cats too and be taught not to chase them.

LEASH LAW/ LICENSING/ ID TAGS

- most towns have leash laws – dogs need to be kept on leash if they are off your property. This is for safety of other people and your pet! Cars! Thieves!
- All dogs need to be licensed with the town office. This is how the town keeps track of which dogs are rabies vaccinated – safety!
- Id tags with your name address and phone # will get your pet home safely if he gets loose or lost!

GROOMING

- all dogs need to be brushed and bathed.
- Some dogs need trimming by a professional groomer
- Keeping your dog's nails trimmed and ears cleaned can help prevent medical problems.
- Dogs like to be clean just like we do!

TOYS/GAMES

- when dogs are bored they can't play a video game or read a book! Chew toys!
- (show chew toys) make sure the toys you give your dog are safe!
- Balls and frisbees are good toys to encourage your dog to play with you!

LOVE

- last but not least – dogs need your love.
- A dog should be part of your family, not a toy that can be put away when you're tired of it!
- Dogs are great listeners and can be your best friend– you can tell them secrets and they'll never snitch on you!

IF YOU CAN PROVIDE YOUR DOG WITH ALL OF THESE THINGS WYOU WILL BE A GREAT DOG OWNER!