

Caring for your **Dog or Puppy**

Taking care of a dog or puppy is a big job! Find out what supplies you will need and what responsibilities you will have to take care of your new best friend.

Supplies

- Premium quality dog food and treats for the right breed and size
- Food and water bowls – ceramic and metal bowls clean up better
- Safe toys – make sure there's no lead paint or breakable parts
- Dog brush and comb
- Dog shampoo
- Pooper scooper and biodegradable poop bags
- Collar with license and ID tag
- Leash
- Dog nail clippers
- Carrier or crate
- Dog bed
- Dog toothbrush and dog toothpaste
- Outdoor dog house
- Make sure you have shaded areas outdoors

What to Feed Your Puppy or Dog

- Adult dogs should eat premium-quality dry food. If you want, you can mix the dry food with water, low-salt broth or canned food
- Dogs can eat MOST fruits and vegetables, but never more than 10% of their daily diet. See below for a list of foods that shouldn't be given to dogs.
- Puppies need a high-quality puppy food
- Avoid "people food" for all dogs and puppies
- Dogs and puppies need clean, fresh water available at all times

When to Feed

- Puppies eight to 12 weeks old: three meals a day
- Puppies three to six months old: two meals a day
- Puppies six months to one year: two meals a day
- Dogs, one year or older: two meals a day
- Large dogs: may need three meals a day

Dangers! Never Give Your Puppy or Dog:

- Anything harder than your pet's teeth. This includes cow bones, nylon bones and real bones. These can break a dog's teeth.
- House plants
- T-shirts or knotted socks. If accidentally chewed apart and ingested, they can become "foreign bodies", causing your pet to become very ill.
- Alcohol
- Chocolate
- Coffee
- Grapes and raisins
- Moldy or spoiled food
- Onions, garlic or chives
- Poultry bones
- Salty foods or salt
- Tomato leaves or stems
- Unripe fruit
- Yeast dough
- Nuts
- Medicines unless it's recommended by a veterinarian



Exercise

- Different dogs need different amounts of exercise. Some dogs need a lot. Some dogs get hurt if they exercise too much. Ask your veterinarian what's best for your pet.
- When walking your pet, be careful of ice or snow, deicer salt, or hot pavement

Chores Daily

- Gently brush your dog's fur
- Play with your dog
- Walk your dog – ask your veterinarian how long and how much
- Brush your dog's teeth – chew toys aren't enough
- Clean up poop
- Clean water and food bowls
- Feed and water your pet

Monthly

- Bathe your dog if needed. Some dogs don't need to be bathed monthly.
- Have your parents or guardian:
 - Check your dog's nails to see if they need to be clipped
 - Give your dog a heartworm pill from your veterinarian – no matter which state you live in!
 - Ask your veterinarian to see if your dog needs his/her ear hair trimmed or if he/she needs his/her "anal glands expressed"
 - Apply a flea/tick prevention treatment if needed

Yearly

- Have your parent or guardian take your dog to the veterinarian for a checkup and any vaccines

Be Gentle

- Never hit a dog, they don't understand what hitting is
- Never grab your dog's fur or tail
- Don't force a tired dog to play

Get a License and ID

- Follow your city's licensing laws
- Attach the license to your dog's collar
- Have your parents or guardian ask the veterinarian to microchip your dog

Go to Dog or Puppy School

A trained dog is a happy dog! Contact your local humane society or veterinarian to find a training class.

Spay and Neuter

- To prevent health problems, females should be spayed and males should be neutered. Check with your veterinarian on the appropriate age to spay or neuter your pet.
- Dogs that are spayed/neutered don't run away or fight as much

Finding the Right Veterinarian

- When you get your dog, have your parent or guardian take it to a veterinarian for a checkup
- Your dog should see a veterinarian once a year and when you think it might be sick

You know your dog best. If your dog seems to be acting strangely, call your veterinarian right away!

Information about taking of your dog or puppy provided by Wendy Hauser, DVM, of the Coal Creek Veterinary Hospital, Centennial, Colo.

