



BE RESPONSIBLE: Pet Ownership Tips

The Key to a happy, healthy home for you and your pet begins with YOU!

- Provide adequate food, water, and shelter at all times.
- Spay or neuter your dog to prevent a dog's desire to get out and roam.
- Ensure your dog is up to date on vaccinations, micro-chipped, and licensed.
- Always keep a collar with identification on your dog that includes your up to date phone number. Buckle collars are safer than snap collars.
- Maintain a fenced, locked yard to prevent your dog from getting out and inhibiting unauthorized entry. Routinely inspect your yard, fence and gate to be sure that they are secure and in good shape, paying special attention to the ground and fence line. No gaps should be showing.
- Keep dogs indoors on hot days and NEVER tie up your dog when left alone. Dogs must always have access to water and shade when you're not around.
- Don't leave your dogs outside unattended if at all possible.
- Always use a hand held (non-retracting) leash to control your dog away from home. When walking your dog, use an appropriately fitted training collar such as a martingale or harness. Different collars work with different dogs.
- Socialize your dog with different people, animals, and settings regularly to promote a well-balanced pet. Treat new situations and people with caution to promote a successful interaction. Make sure to do proper introductions between dogs (nose to butt) and always observe play between dogs before leaving them unattended. Expect other people and dogs to be respectful of your dog's space and approach interactions appropriately.
- Properly train your dog using consistent and positive methods. Establish yourself as the pack leader by setting expectations for rewards such as food, petting, and play. **Consult a trainer if undesirable behaviors towards people occur (growling, barking, nipping).**
- Avoid playing aggressive games such as tug-of-war, wrestling, and allowing play bite.
- *Always supervise your dog's play with children. Always put food or toys away when children or other dogs are present.
- Visit your vet for yearly checkups. This will help keep your dog healthy.
- NEVER put your pet in the back of an open pickup. This is very dangerous and in hot weather, harmful to your dog especially difficult on the feet.
- NEVER leave your dog in a car on a warm day.
- Keep your pet safe when traveling in a car, have a crate or a car harness that seatbelts into your car.
- ***LOVE YOUR PET!** Praise your dog for obeying commands and behaving well and keep your dog active by playing fetch or taking them for a walk.