

CARING FOR YOUR DOG

In order to stay healthy and happy, a dog needs

A balanced diet

Veterinary care

Companionship

Exercise

HOUSING/SHELTER

- A dog that lives outside needs a shelter to give protection from the heat, cold, wind and rain.
- Shelter should be structurally sound, and off the ground to protect the dog from rain and flooding.
- Shelter should be placed in a shady area to provide shade from the hot sun.
- Shelter size should be large enough so that the dog can stand up normally and be able to turn around and lie down with limbs outstretched.
- Bedding such as a blanket, rug or dog bed should be provided and raised off the ground to keep dry. These should be cleaned on a regular basis to prevent parasite infestation. Hay also works well for bedding and warmth.
- If dog is chained to shelter he may become tangled which can cause injury. Use a long running line instead.
- A bucket of clean water should be placed near enough for your dog to be able to drink throughout the day and night.

FOOD & WATER

- A dog needs a balanced diet of protein and fiber. Household scraps will not be sufficient to maintain good body weight or strong muscles.
- Sharp bones can be dangerous, as they may become stuck in the throat or cause problems if swallowed.
- Fresh water should be given daily in a clean bowl.

EXERCISE

- A dog should not be permanently tied up, he needs regular exercise.
- A walk each day, and perhaps a game of fetch with a stick or ball, will help to keep your dog alert, active, and relieve boredom.
- A bored dog may bark excessively, annoying neighbors.

HEALTH

- A dog that is kept in dirty conditions can become infested with worms, ticks, fleas or lice. Talk to your vet about treatment for these infestations.
- Bathe your dog at least once a month with a flea treatment shampoo
- Gently clean inside the ears with water and cotton balls
- Teeth should be checked by a vet once a year. Brushing daily with a soft toothbrush will also help prevent decay.
- Dogs need regular veterinary care. Dogs should be vaccinated starting at two months of age.
- Spay/Neutering of your pet will not only prevent thousands of puppies from being born but will also improve the health of your pet.

BREEDING

- Every year thousands of dogs are destroyed because there are not enough suitable homes available for them.
- Female dogs can produce many puppies every year. In six years a pair of dogs and their offspring can produce 67,000 puppies.
- By constantly producing and rearing puppies, the health of a female dog can suffer.
- Pregnant and lactating female dogs need extra food.
- Puppies suckle from their mothers for about three weeks, gradually starting to eat additional food.
- A female dog is naturally protective of her young and can be aggressive at this time. A quiet place should be provided for them.
- To prevent unwanted puppies have your dog spayed/neutered – an operation performed by a vet.

COMPANIONSHIP

- Dogs are pack animals and therefore want and need to be a part of a family (pack).
- Love your dog, play with your dog, and take him on outings with the family. He is your companion and friend for life.