



How to be a Responsible Pet Owner

- Every day feed them nourishing store-bought food, not table scraps. Also, make sure they *always* have fresh cool water to drink.
- Give them waterproof shelter. Share your home with them.
- Keep them clean. Brush them often. Ask your veterinarian what to do about ticks and fleas.
- Teach them kindly. Be patient. When training your pet you have to show them and tell them what you want them to do because they learn by seeing and hearing. Remove things that get them into trouble.
- Give them care and comfort, especially when they are hurt or sick.
- Learn to understand what they are trying to tell you. They "talk" with their sounds, bodies, ears, tails, and eyes.
- Protect them from traffic. Teach your dog to walk with you on a leash. The safest place for your cat is indoors, at home. When taking your cat outside the home, transport them in a pet carrier.
- Get veterinary help when needed, and yearly checkups also. Ask your veterinarian about important vaccinations, like the Rabies vaccine, that your pet will need.
- Be sure they wear identification tags with your name, address, and phone number in case they get lost.
- Give them a bigger collar, as they grow bigger. Tight collars hurt.
- Leave them with responsible caregivers when you go away.
- Do not let them go visiting unless they are invited.
- They should not just be a pet. They should be a part of the family. Love and protect them as long as they live.

IMPORTANT!

**Don't let your pet have babies.
There are not enough homes for all of them.
Have your pet spayed or neutered!**