

TIPS FOR RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP



Dogs have four basic needs: **food, safety, shelter, and entertainment.** As their “pack leader,” they look to you to display behavioral cues and provide for these necessities. Reinforce good canine manners, give your pup the feeling of security it craves, and help them stay healthy and happy with this list of essential tips from Bark Busters.

SCHEDULE REGULAR CHECK-UPS WITH YOUR VETERINARIAN

All dogs need adequate nutrition and healthcare. Choose a veterinarian who shares your medical philosophies and beliefs, then follow their recommendations for vaccinations, diet, and other health-related issues.

PROVIDE PROPER IDENTIFICATION

Your dog should always wear an ID tag with your name and contact information, which greatly increases the odds they will be returned safely to you if lost. You can even have them microchipped for extra protection.

MAKE TIME FOR MENTAL STIMULATION

Dogs need mental exercise too! Interactive toys are a proven way to keep your pup’s brain engaged, healthy, and satisfied.

PROVIDE SHELTER FOR YOUR DOG

Dogs require a comfortable, enclosed place (like a crate or doghouse) to call their own. The shelter should be large enough for your dog to sit, stand, and turn around comfortably, but small enough to retain their body heat as they sleep and relax.

GIVE YOUR DOG REGULAR, SAFE EXERCISE

Whether it’s a short walk or a rousing game of fetch, all dogs need consistent exercise for their physical and behavioral health. Every breed, size, and age has different limitations, however, so be sure to consider these factors before scheduling daily time for pets, play, walks, or other activities that are fun (and safe) for everyone.

GET YOUR DOG SPAYED OR NEUTERED

Spayed/neutered pets live longer, healthier lives with added behavioral benefits. Talk to your veterinarian about the benefits of having your dog spayed or neutered and to determine the best age for the procedure, which is typically advised for after your dog reaches puberty.

TRAVEL SAFELY

Keep your dog safe in the car with a pet travel harness, car seat, or carrier/crate. Never let your dog ride free in the back of a pickup truck (where they could be thrown into traffic) or allow them to hang their head out of the car window (where debris can injure their eyes).

BE MINDFUL OF EXTREME TEMPERATURES

Exposure to the blazing sun and freezing cold can be harmful to your dog. Avoid prolonged walks or playtime in these conditions to protect their sensitive paws, and never leave your dog alone in the car (which magnifies hot or cold temperatures) at any time.

GET TRAINING

Well-behaved dogs enjoy a better relationship with everyone they meet – and reflect positively on you, their pack leader!

