



YOUR NEW FURRY FRIEND



Congratulations on getting your new pet, we hope you have lots of fun with your new friend, here are some things to know about having pets.

When you get a pet you and your family are responsible for him/her for their whole life. That could be for 16 or more years! They will need you to love them and care for them even if they get sick and when they get old.



Pets need people to be kind and gentle to them. If you do then they promise to always love you back.



Having a pet is a **BIG** responsibility, it's not only up to your parents to take care of them, you can help too.
Some things you can do to help:

Learn to feed your pet



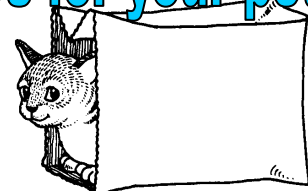
If you're old enough help clean up after your pet.



Play with your pet and help take them for walks



Make some homemade toys for your pet.



What Dogs Need to be Happy and Healthy



Food

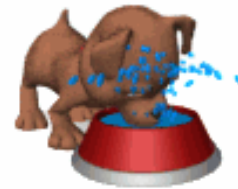
Dogs eat dog food.

Human food is not good for dogs and too much human food can make them fat or sick. The best Dog food comes in dry biscuits and tins, try not to feed too much or they will get a tummy ache just like you.

Dogs don't eat lollies and sweets it can make them really sick.

Water

Dogs like fresh clean water, lots of it in summer when it is hot. Dogs don't need anything else to drink, sweet drinks like juice or coke can make them sick.



Shelter and Warmth



Just like you, dogs like to be warm and snuggly. Some dogs live outside so they need a kennel or dog house to keep them warm and sheltered from the weather, a kennel needs to be warm in winter and cool in summer. Other dogs are allowed to sleep inside, they still need a comfy bed or blanket to sleep on in a quiet place in the house.



Health Care

If your dog gets sick they need to go to the Doctor the same as you. A special animal doctor is called a Veterinarian. You will need to be extra nice to your dog if they are feeling sick.



Grooming

Most dogs enjoy getting their fur brushed, it can feel like a massage to them. Dogs that have long fur need to be brushed every day so they don't get knots. When dogs get smelly they will need to have a bath, they don't need a bath every day like you do, only when they get really smelly or dirty.

Exercise

Dogs have lots of energy just like you, they love to run around and play too. Dogs need to be exercised every day to stop them getting bored. Dogs that sit around home a lot with nothing to do can become sad and can get naughty.



Time with You and having FUN

Dogs love to be with their family, it makes them very happy when you play with them and talk to them.

Have fun with your dog, anyone who has a dog is very lucky, so treat them well, give them what they need and they will be your best friend forever.



School

Just like you dogs need to learn how to behave properly, they learn what they need to know from you and your family (you are their teacher).

For your dog to learn you will need to show them how to do things many times before they understand. Just like you with maths and reading, sometimes your teacher has to show you five or six times before you get it. But practise makes perfect, you just have to be patient.

Also remember it can be confusing for your dog to get different commands for the same thing. Make sure you and your family say the same command every time so your dog will understand what you are trying to say.



- Puppies are cute and fun to roll around with but they have very sharp teeth and nails. Biting can become a bad habit and when your dog gets bigger, it can be dangerous so don't let them bite or scratch you, even if it's fun. Stand up so that you are taller than your puppy. If your puppy does bite or jump up say "NO" and walk away, get a toy to give to him/her, and when he takes it, say "Good boy" or "Good Girl". If your puppy continues to bite you, your pants, or your hands, put him outside, in another room, a crate, or a pen for time out until you think he's calmed down, then let him come back out with you.

There is lots more to learn about dogs here are some websites you could visit to learn more and find some fun things to do with your dog.

www.petsonthenet.co.nz

www.petpost.co.nz

www.netpets.co.nz

www.thepetnetwork.co.nz

How to be Safer Around Dogs.



Don't Bother Dogs Who Are Eating.

If you go up to a dog who is eating, they may think you are trying to take their food. Let the dog eat by themselves. Stay away until they are finished.

Don't Bother Dogs Who Are Sleeping

If you wake a dog who is sleeping by touching them or running up to them they can get a surprise or get scared and try to bite. To wake up a sleeping dog stand far away and call out their name. If you don't know the dog, don't wake them up just leave them alone

Don't Bother Dogs Who Are Protecting Their Home

Some dogs guard their home (territory). A dog's territory can be many places: his yard, his home, his car, his crate, his doghouse, his toys. They could growl or bark at you, if they do walk away and leave them alone. Always stay away from dogs you don't know.

Don't Bother Dogs Who Are Old or Not Feeling Well.



Dogs who are old may not hear or see very well. They can be surprised or get scared if they don't see you coming and old dogs can have sore bodies that may make them grumpier than they used to be. Be gentle and soft with your old dog.

Dogs who are sick need quiet time to get better, let them sleep as much as they need to, if you want to give them a pat or cuddle ask your parents first and make sure they see you coming, walk up to them quietly and talk softly.

Don't Bother Dogs By Teasing Them.

Imagine if you are being teased or bullied by someone else it can upset you and make you angry. It is the same for a dog but when he gets angry he can bite you. Dogs can also get upset if their fur, ears, or tails are pulled

Don't Bother Dogs By Crowding Them.

Most dogs are not happy if there are lots of people around them, a good rule is to have one person patting the dog at a time. Don't climb over dogs or sit on them and never touch someone else's dog unless you ask your parents or the dogs owner first.



If an angry dog you don't know comes up to you and starts to annoy you remember not to run away, stop and stand tall. If they start to jump up and bite pretend to be a turtle with a shell, curl into a ball tuck your head into your knees and cover your neck with your hands. Maybe you could practice this at home.