

"Pet Care 101"

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Not Sure Where to Start?

Taking responsibility for a pet is taking responsibility for a life. That's a huge commitment, but one that is endlessly rewarding. Listed below are some "Pet Care 101" tips, to help ensure that you and your animal friend have a happy life together!

#TIP 1: FIND THE RIGHT MATCH

Look more than skin deep to find the right pet for your home and lifestyle. Finding a pet whose energy level closely matches your own is one of the most important considerations. You and your pet will want to be able to keep up with each other. Other factors to consider, if you are a renter, are your landlord's pet weight and breed restrictions. That puppy isn't going to stay a puppy for very long. Research online or check with a veterinarian to get an idea of what the animal's life span is likely to be, and make sure you're prepared to take care of the animal for his entire life.

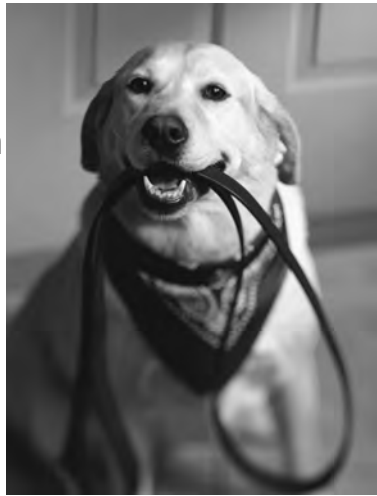


#TIP 2: MAKE GOOD HEALTH A PRIORITY

Find a good vet through referrals from friends and neighbors. Animals should be spayed or neutered no later than 6 months of age. Annual vet visits are important to your pet's overall health and typically include an exam, heartworm test, vaccinations and a dental. Monthly, year-round heartworm prevention is a MUST and is easy and inexpensive to give to your pet. Your vet can prescribe a year's supply at each annual visit. A high quality diet is also essential for good health, just like with humans. It may be more expensive initially, but it will pay off in the long run in your pet's overall health.

#TIP 3: GRAB A LEASH

Energy levels and exercise requirements vary from breed to breed, but every dog benefits from a daily walk with his favorite person. Contrary to popular belief, playing in the backyard does not provide sufficient exercise and mental stimulation for dogs. Reputable dog trainers will tell you that a tired dog is a happier, better-behaved dog. A dog who does not have the opportunity to burn energy each day is likely to become bored, destructive and even develop behavioral problems. So do yourself and Fido a big favor: grab those sneakers, get the leash and enjoy some fresh air and exercise with your canine companion.



#TIP 4: OBEDIENCE TRAINING IS KEY

One of the wisest investments you can make for both your dog and yourself is obedience training. Too many people overlook this important step, and far too many dogs wind up in shelters because of behaviors that are easily correctable. Learning how to effectively and properly communicate your wishes to your dog will help you feel more confident and will help you avoid frustration down the road. Plus, your dog deserves the opportunity to learn what the rules are and what you expect of him. Stick with positive reinforcement-based training, where YOU ARE A PARTICIPANT, for the best results.

#TIP 5: REMEMBER THE EXTRAS

There are lots of other topics to consider when planning for the care of your pet. Some breeds must be professionally groomed on a regular basis, while others are fine with just a regular nail trim. All pets should wear ID at all times, to help them find their way home, should they go missing. The best form of ID is a microchip, registered with all of your contact information, but ID tags on your pet's collar are still necessary. Also, when you're away from home, who will you trust to take care of your pet? A little extra planning in the beginning can help ensure smooth sailing in the long run for you and your pet.



American Boston Terrier Rescue
972.407.4440; www.bostonterrierrescue.net

Animal Rescue Klub (ARK)
www.animalrescueklub.org; 972.562.HELP

Animal Rescue of Texas
www.animalrescueoftexas.org; 214.276.7802

Chihuahua Rescue and Transport, Inc.
www.chihuahua-rescue.org; 817.821.3272

Coppell Humane Society
www.coppellhumanesociety.com; 972.462.1121

Dachshund Lovers of Texas
www.dachshundloversoftexas.org; 214.577.7536

DFW Cocker Spaniel Rescue
www.dfwcockerrescue.org; 972.994.1133

DFW Labrador Retriever Rescue Club
972.881.5544; www.dfwlabrescue.org

DFW Sheltie Rescue
www.sheltie.org; 972.994.7848

DFW Tzus And More Rescue
www.dfwtzusandmorerescue.com; 888.290.3335

East Lake Pet Orphanage
214.349.ELPO (3576); www.elpo.org

Frisco Humane Society
www.friscohumanesociety.com; 972.498.8980

Humane Animal Rescue Team (HART)
www.hartoftexas.org; 214.332.9535

Humane Society of Flower Mound
www.fmhs.org; 972.691.7387

Labrador Retriever Rescue of North Texas
www.labrescuenorthtexas.org; 972.480.LABS (5227)

Richardson Humane Society
www.richardsonhumanesociety.org; 972.234.5117

Sadie Foundation
www.sadie.peffinder.com; k9kids1@verizon.net

Save The Animals Rescue Society (STARS)
www.starspets.com; 972.459.9181

Saving Pyrs In Need (SPIN)
www.SPINrescue.org; 972.681.8585

Scottie Kingdom Rescue, Inc.
www.scottiekingdom.com

Tassie's Hope Animal Rescue
www.tassieshope.org

Texas Animal Shelter Coalition
817.392.3737; www.sheltercoalition.com

Rescue Friends Coalition
www.rescuefriends.org; rescuefriends@verizon.net

"Just 1 Litter" Is 1 Litter Too Many. Please Spay Or Neuter Your Pet.