



NEW PET OWNER CHEAT SHEET

Pets give us more than what's humanly possible. And in return for a lifetime of unconditional love, loyalty and friendship, there are some important things you need to do to keep them safe and happy.

1. Properly identify your pet. Your new pet already has a microchip to help keep track of them (see attached microchip forms). In addition, collars and ID tags with your contact info will increase the chance of your pet's safe return if they're ever lost.
2. Feed them a nutritionally balanced diet, including constant access to fresh water.
3. Keep them indoors. Never leave your pet outside and unsupervised for long periods.
4. Get regular checkups at the veterinarian. Ask us or a pet-owning friend for a great vet.
5. Give them plenty of exercise and play time. Both dogs and cats require exercise to maintain a healthy body weight and provide mental stimulation. This can also strengthen bonds between owners and pets! Be sure to always walk your dog on a leash.
6. Train your pet. Positive reinforcement training allows you to control your pet's behavior safely and humanely while helping you bond. This applies to cats too!
7. Follow local laws for licensing your pet and vaccinating them for Rabies. Check with your local animal shelter or humane society for information regarding legal requirements, where to obtain tags and where to have your pet vaccinated.
8. Be patient. Make sure the expectations you have of your pet are reasonable, and remember that the vast majority of behavior problems can be solved. If you are struggling with your pet's behavior contact your veterinarian.