



You Can Be a Responsible Pet Caregiver!

It is easy to be a responsible pet caregiver. Just remember that your cat or dog depends on you to provide companionship, healthy food, veterinary care, shelter, and safety.

- ▶ License your pet according to your local laws and have him/her wear an ID tag at all times, showing your name, address, and telephone number.
- ▶ Make your pet an indoor pet. Your cat or dog should live inside with the rest of your family.
- ▶ Keep your dog or cat on a leash or under your control whenever you take him/her outside for exercise. This will protect your pet from injuries caused by cars and other animals and from disease and theft, as well as keep him/her from being a public nuisance.
- ▶ Spay or neuter your pet. This will keep him/her healthier and will reduce the problem of dog and cat overpopulation.
- ▶ Give your pet a nutritious diet, including constant access to clean water.

- Provide your pet with plenty of exercise.
- Be sure your pet receives proper veterinary care, and keep up with the necessary vaccinations, including rabies shots, to protect your pet, other animals, and your community.
- Train your pet patiently, and give him/her lots of love and attention.
- Groom your pet often to keep his/her coat healthy, soft, and shiny. Grooming sessions are a wonderful opportunity to bond with your pet.
- Have realistic expectations about your pet; nobody is perfect. Make a commitment to work through any behavior or health problems that may arise. Don't just get rid of your pet!
- Visit your local animal shelter when it's time to bring a new pet into your life, and adopt one of the many homeless dogs and cats of all types, sizes, and ages who are waiting for a lifelong responsible home.

For more information
about responsible
pet care, contact your
local animal shelter
or Companion Animals,
The Humane Society of
the United States,
2100 L St., NW,
Washington, DC 20037.
202-452-1100
www.hsus.org

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***Promoting the Protection
of All Animals***