

The ABCs of Responsible pet ownership



Provide a license and permanent identification

An animal license and permanent identification is your pet's ticket home. Your dog is required by law to be licensed. Animal Control officers will attempt to return all currently licensed animals home and licensing provides a critical source of funding for animal care and control programs.

Spay or neuter household pets

It's simple: spayed or neutered pets are more likely to enjoy good health and a long life. Spaying and neutering reduces pet overpopulation – tens of thousands of animals are euthanized every year. Spaying or neutering makes for more sociable and affectionate pets, reduces disease, infection and cancer of pet's reproductive systems, and prevents inappropriate spraying or marking.

Provide regular socialization, training, exercise and veterinarian care

Training builds confidence and strengthens the human-animal bond. A well-socialized pet will help ensure that he is able to live with as little stress as possible and be welcome in any settings. Playing with your pet and providing socialization opportunities helps to reduce behavioral problems. Ensure that your dog is groomed regularly, and receives the optimal amount of quality pet food and fresh water. This too will help prevent health problems. Visit a veterinarian. It's important your dog sees a vet on a regular basis for vaccinations and check-ups. Most communities have low-cost vet clinic days for vaccinations.

Don't allow pet to become a threat or nuisance in the community

Make sure you have a secure enclosure so your pet will not run loose. Leash your dog when off your property, except when walking in a designated off-leash area. If you are a dog owner, scoop the poop! Ensure your dog does not bite, injure, chase, threaten, bark howl at or disturb anyone.

(From the Humane Society)