

CARING FOR YOUR PET



Nutrition

Food should be nutritious and appropriate for the age of your pet. Pets need to be given food daily, preferably twice a day for adult pets and more frequently for puppies and kittens. Pets need to have clean water to drink at all times.

Shelter

In addition to the current laws to protect and stop the abuse of animals, many counties also have passed specific laws requiring owners to provide appropriate shelter from the elements (rain, snow, wind, cold, and heat). Domestic animals depend on human beings to survive and need protection from the elements when they are not inside your house.

Shade

Animals need shade and good air ventilation during the summer months. A dog house will not suffice for shade because in the heat, it can be like an oven. Your animal is more comfortable inside your air-conditioned home.

Cars

On a hot summer day, a closed car can reach 120 degrees in just minutes. Do NOT leave your pet in a car, even with the windows cracked. Your pet can die or become seriously ill in just ten minutes. Also, it's dangerous to leave your pets in an unattended car. Thieves can break into your car in seconds and take your pet. They might sell him to a laboratory for live-animal experimentation, to dog fighters to use as bait, or worse. It's best to leave your pet at home unless you are going to and from the vet with no stops in between.

Health

State laws require that cats and dogs be vaccinated yearly for rabies. Your pet should be under the care of a veterinarian to prevent or treat health problems like heartworms (worms in the heart that can kill) and problems with fleas or ticks. Your veterinarian can prescribe a tablet to be administered monthly to prevent heartworms, or a vaccination with protection for six months against this disease. Also, your veterinarian can provide you with the appropriate medication to be administered monthly to eliminate fleas and ticks on your dog or cat. Don't waste money on similar products that are sold in pet supply or

other stores since they may not be effective. Follow the recommendations of your veterinarian for other care, including vaccinations to prevent certain diseases.

Identification/Microchipping

Placing an identification tag on your pet's collar with your name and telephone number could save his life. ID tags can be obtained at PetSmart, Petco, etc., or on the Internet. MCAS or your vet can microchip your dog or cat, providing a permanent record of ownership. MCAS microchips for just \$20.

Statistics show that in the Houston area only ten out of 100 dogs in shelters are reunited with their owners, and only two out of 100 cats. Animals in shelters often have collars, but no ID. Without ID, it's not likely you and your animal will be reunited if he becomes lost. With a microchip, your pet can return home. Don't run the risk of losing your pet and the chance he will be killed in a shelter or on the street.



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