

Tips & Hints

Five Ways to Love Your Pet



Your pet is a friend, companion, trusted confidante, and source of unconditional love. Show them how much you care for them by following these simple guidelines.

1. Diet

Your pet has different dietary needs than a human being. Sure, it is tempting to give your animal friend a morsel of your dinner (especially when they sit there staring at you during mealtimes!) but some human foods can actually be dangerous for your pets. Buy suitable pet treats, and limit them to one per day. Keep cabinets secured and human foods safely out of your pet's reach. And check with local veterinarians and reputable pet-supply professionals to determine which pet foods are best for your pet.

2. Medical Check-ups

Just as humans require regular trips to the doctor to ensure continued good health, so too does your pet need routine visits to a reputable veterinarian. Ensure your pet's vaccinations are up to date, and keep its health records in a secure location. Don't wait until your pet becomes ill before you bring him for a regular visit!

3. Spay/Neuter

Each year, an estimated 3-4 million dogs and cats are euthanized by shelters simply because there are not enough families to adopt them. An average litter of 5-7 puppies for each stray dog, and 6-9 kittens per stray cat ensures that animal overpopulation will continue to be an epidemic problem for many years to come. Help control the pet population by having your pet spayed or neutered. It's inexpensive, and substantially less than the cost of caring, feeding and finding homes for a horde of stray dogs and cats.

4. Exercise

Pets crave love and attention, and also require lots of play time. Throw a ball, toss the Frisbee, grab a piece of yarn, or play tug-of-war with a favorite chew toy. Grab the leash and take your dog for a walk in the sunshine or a romp in the snow. Your pet and you will both benefit from the exercise, and your pet will know that he is loved.

5. Safety and Protection

Loving your pet means keeping them safe. Keep them indoors, and make sure they are securely leashed or caged if you take them out with you. Fleas, ticks and heartworms can all cause severe health problems for your pets, so make sure you utilize a reliable flea control method. Dogs and cats should have a proper method of identification, including collars with tags and vaccination information, an ID tattoo, or a microchip. Remember that wild animals roam suburban and country areas, and frequently carry rabies or other diseases. More and more, these wild animals are encroaching on urban and suburban areas. Ensure that your pet is safe from unwanted encounters with wild animals, as well as vehicles, harmful insects, and other dangers lurking in your neighborhood.



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