

Your dog needs your help to be healthy

- A healthy dog has shiny fur, bright eyes, a clean nose and clean ears. If you think your dog is sick, ask your local vet for advice straight away
- Check your dog for injuries and illnesses every day. Daily brushing is a good way to do this. It will also help stop lice, fleas or ticks living in your dog's fur.
- Parasitic worms can live inside your dog and make them sick. Dogs can pass worms onto other dogs and people in your community. This can make them sick too. Deworming your dog with medicine from your vet will stop this happening.
- If you live in a country where rabies is present, get your dog vaccinated against rabies every year. Dogs with rabies suffer very badly and die. Rabid dogs can pass the disease on to people and it can kill them too.
- Only give your dog medicines prescribed by a vet. Talk to your vet about how to protect your dog from rabies and other diseases.

Should your dog have puppies?

- Think about whether you can care for puppies and their mother properly. Also, will you be able to find homes for ALL of the puppies she has? There are so many puppies all around the world that are being dumped or killed because they have no homes.
- Female dogs can get sick if they have too many litters of puppies.
- Ask a vet about getting your dog neutered. Neutering is an operation that stops your dog having puppies. It can help stop dogs becoming aggressive to people and fighting with other dogs too. Make sure that the vet you choose to neuter your dog is properly trained and qualified to do the operation.



Better lives for dogs

Your dog and your community

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Happy, healthy dogs mean happy and healthy people and communities

What does your dog need to be happy and healthy?



Your dog needs space to behave like a dog

- This means its own place to rest and lie down. It also needs shelter from hot, cold and wet weather.
- All dogs need to run around and play. So don't tie up your dog for lengthy periods. Being tied up can hurt dogs and make them sad and angry.
- Take your dog for walks so it gets lots of exercise.
- Keep your dog's home clean. Clean up your dog's poo and throw it in a rubbish bin. Dog poo can spread disease to other dogs and people in your community.

Your dog needs the right things to eat

- Feed your dog daily with a good diet of dog food, recommended by your vet.
- Always make sure your dog has fresh, clean water in its bowl and that it can get to the bowl whenever it wants.
- Never feed dogs cooked bones. Bones may look harmless but they can kill a dog by getting stuck in its throat or intestines.
- Don't let your dog eat food that it finds when it's away from home. Food that's lying on the street near bins, for example, can make dogs very ill. And dogs looking for food in rubbish can become a nuisance to your neighbours.

Making your dog happy

- Just like humans, dogs can feel all sorts of things. They can have fun and feel happy, but they can feel sad and afraid too.
- Be kind to your dog. It's good to let dogs know when they've done something right. You can stroke them or give them a tasty treat.
- Don't hit or shout at your dog when it does something wrong. It won't understand why and could become scared of you. Scared dogs can become aggressive. When your dog does something wrong, it is best to ignore it. This gives your dog the message that good behaviour gets your attention.
- Spend time with your dog. If you and your dog are good friends, it will always want to protect you and your home.
- Let your dog spend time with other dogs – this makes them happy because they are very social animals.
- If your dog is barking for no clear reason, it might be bored and unhappy. A barking dog will also upset your neighbours. Find out why your dog is unhappy and do your best to make its life as good as possible.
- Your dog may bite you or someone else if it is unhappy, scared or frustrated.
- Leave your dog alone when it is eating or asleep. Dogs don't like being taken by surprise – they get scared and could bite.

