



## How to Care for an Animal.

Animals can't speak for themselves. They rely on humans who care about their well-being. This means knowing what licenses and vaccinations are required and the level of care is needed.

### Choosing the Right Animal

- \* Research and understand the breed before you adopt a dog or pet.
- \* Vaccinate, microchip, and license your animals.
- \* Spay and neuter your dog/pet.
- \* Ensure that your apartment, condo, or rental house allows the type of pet or breed of dog you are considering.
- \* Always keep your animal on a leash, or in a secure and safe enclosed area; and supervise closely if you take your pet outside.
- \* Properly house, feed, and care for your pets.
- \* Never try to use your dog as a guard dog, for fighting, or keep it chained/tied up/penned or outside unattended at any time.
- \* Owning a dog is for LIFE—do not sell, give away, or dispose of your dog.
- \* Socialize your dog with humans as much as possible
- \* Never leave a dog alone and unsupervised with other animals or children.
- \* Always monitor your dog when it plays with other dogs, and don't let things escalate.
- \* Give your dog daily exercise.



## **Prepare for an Emergency.**

Just as you do with your family—prepare an emergency supply kit. Think first about the basics for survival, particularly food and water. Consider two kits. In one, put everything you and your pets will need to stay where you are. The other should be a lightweight, smaller version you can take with you if you and your pets have to get away. Plus, be sure to review your kits to ensure that their contents, especially foods and medicines, are fresh.

In any emergency, local authorities may or may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet for instructions. If you're specifically told to evacuate, shelter-in-place or seek medical treatment, do so immediately.

Those who take the time to prepare themselves and their pets will likely encounter less difficulty, stress and worry. Take the time now to get yourself and your pet ready.

For more information on animal related contact information, programs, and brochures visit the Environmental

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