

Dog

Canis familiaris



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Dogs are as much a part of the American landscape as baseball and apple pies. But any decision to add a canine companion to the family must be carefully researched before a successful adoption can occur.



Is a dog the right companion animal for you?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check "Yes" or "No" after reading the following statements:

1. I have an appropriate location and space for the breed I am considering.
2. I will spay or neuter my dog.
3. I have the time necessary to commit to training this dog.
4. I have researched and can commit to providing proper care, nutrition, and veterinary attention, including vaccinations, for this dog.
5. A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this dog.

If you answered "Yes" to these statements, a dog may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for a dog and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible companion animal care.

Before deciding to purchase a dog, consider adoption!

Your local PETCO will be able to provide you with additional information.

Average Size Varies greatly with breed **Life Span** 6 to 16 years with proper care, depending on breed

Diet Most dogs will do well on any of the premium dog foods available. Match food to size and life stage; treats should not exceed 10% of total diet. Table scraps are not recommended.
Clean, fresh, chlorine-free water, changed daily.

Feeding Feed puppies 3-5 times daily, adult dogs 1-2 times daily. Follow recommendations on manufacturer's label as a guideline and discuss your pet's individual feeding needs with your vet. Feed large, deep-chested dogs 2-3 smaller meals a day to help avoid Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus Syndrome, commonly known as bloat, a serious condition that causes food to be trapped in the stomach.

Housing Pack animals by nature, dogs view their human family as part of their pack and should be allowed to interact with human pack members as much as possible.
Choose a dog that matches your housing constraints. Large, active dogs are not suited for apartment living. Provide an indoor crate and properly train the dog on crate use
Leaving dogs outdoors unsupervised is not recommended; an appropriate sized fenced yard, weather-appropriate shelter, food and water are a must if a dog must be kept outdoors. Tie outs should only be used for temporary arrangements and a tied dog should not be left unattended.

Grooming Bathe and trim nails as necessary. Shorthaired breeds benefit from weekly brushing; brush longhaired breeds daily. Many PETCOs offer grooming services. Grooming needs vary by breed; ask your PETCO groomer about your dog's needs

- Recommended Supplies**
- Kennel, crate or dog house Food and water bowls Training treats
 - Premium dog food Toys and chews Grooming supplies
 - Collar and leash Book on dog breeds and training

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General Group Traits The American Kennel Club (AKC) divides all recognized breeds into groups according to the job for which they were originally developed. Here is a brief overview of each group:

These are generalizations only. Please research your chosen breed carefully.

Sporting Dogs – includes Labrador and Golden Retrievers, and Cocker Spaniels – Bred to help hunters find, flush, and retrieve birds. Tend toward independent thought, high energy.

Hounds – includes Afghans, Beagles, Dachshunds, and Greyhounds – Also bred for hunting. Use scent or sight to track and chase prey. Independent, very focused when tracking.

Working Dogs – includes Boxers, Dobermans, and Rottweilers – Bred to work, many excel at police and protection work; others originally used to hunt large prey such as wolves and lions. A well-bred and well-socialized working dog can make a wonderful, loving companion.

Terriers – includes Scottish, West Highland and Bull terriers – Bred to chase animals into the burrow and flush them out. Work independently, can be quite stubborn for training.

Toys – includes Toy Poodles, Chihuahuas, and Pekingese – Bred primarily to be wonderful companions and watchdogs. Can be rather vocal.

Non-sporting Dogs – includes Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Dalmatians, and Poodles – Miscellaneous group, with a large variety of personalities. Research each breed individually.

Herding Dogs – includes Collies, German Shepherds, and Shetland Sheepdogs – Bred for working closely with owner to herd and protect livestock. Very trainable. Need lots of exercise and a clearly defined job to keep their minds busy.

Normal Behavior and Interaction Dogs are very social and have a specific role within their pack. Some dogs must be kept mentally busy as well as physically active. Other breeds have been developed almost exclusively as companions. These dogs will not be stars in the obedience ring, but will happily just “hang out” with their family. Most breeds fall somewhere between these extremes.

- Signs of a Healthy Animal**
- Active, alert, and sociable
 - Clean fur
 - Clear eyes and nose
 - Eats and drinks regularly
 - Walks normally
 - No bald patches

Common Health Issues	Health Issue (alpha)	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
	Diarrhea	Loose stools caused by poor diet, stress, unclean housing, or other illness	Consult with a veterinarian to determine cause and treatment. Keep vaccinations current
	Mites, fleas, ticks	External parasites; cause itching, loss of hair, certain diseases	Use products especially designed for dogs. Contact a veterinarian for treatment

- Red Flags**
- Missing fur
 - Distressed breathing
 - Lethargic
 - Diarrhea or dirty bottom
 - Eye or nasal discharge
 - Excessive thirst
 - Uneven gait
 - Weight loss

If you notice any of these signs, please contact your veterinarian.

- Sources**
- How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With* by Clarice Rutherford & David H. Neil
 - Choosing a Dog for Life* by Andrew De Prisco, et al
 - Dog Training in 10 Minutes* by Carol Lea Benjamin

Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the above sources or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.