

Tips on Basic Care for Your Dog

Housebreaking

All dogs can be housebroken if you are consistent, as well as persistent, in training them. There are two basic housebreaking techniques: crate training and paper training. Crate training is preferred because it teaches direct housebreaking. Paper training should be an intermediate step, unless you deliberately want your dog to continue eliminating in a designated place indoors.

Paper training: Cover the entire floor of a confined space with paper. Wait for your dog to use the paper, then replace the soiled paper. Once your dog seems to understand the paper concept, begin to leave a bare area without paper. The goal is to have only a very small area covered with paper.

Crate training: When indoors, keep your dog in the crate or under very close supervision. Take your dog out frequently, and give your dog lots of praise for relieving itself. It won't be long before your dog gets the concept of only eliminating outdoors.

Feeding

Three feedings a day are usually adequate for young puppies. At around four to six months old, try cutting back to two meals. Most dogs can be fed only once a day when they reach adulthood.

If you want to discourage picky habits, try to feed at regular times in regular amounts. Do not leave food down any longer than 10 to 20 minutes. Always provide fresh, clean water.

Bathing and Grooming

In general, you only need to bathe your dog once a month or when it is dirty or smelly. Bathing too often can remove natural oils, making your dog's coat and skin too dry.

Brush your dog at least once a week. Brushing helps stimulate natural coat oils, prevents tangles, and is a great way to check for external parasites, such as ticks and fleas. You should also trim your dog's nails every 2 to 4 weeks to prevent pain when walking.

Grooming should be a comfortable experience for your dog. This should not be too difficult if you accustom your dog to being handled as a puppy. This will make it easier when your dog becomes an adult.

Brushing Your Dog's Teeth

Although dog biscuits and bones may have some benefit, they do not prevent the build-up of plaque and tartar. This is why it is so important to brush your dog's teeth regularly. The teeth should be brushed at least once or twice a week. As with grooming, this will be easier if accustom your dog early in life.

Routine Healthcare

Establishing routine healthcare from an early age can prevent disease, prolong the life of your dog and improve your dog's quality of life.

Picking a Veterinarian: It is extremely important to find someone you trust. If you are unfamiliar with the veterinarians in your area,