

Looking After Your Pets

Pets are great company, especially when we're unwell or feeling down. To help you care for your pets and understand their needs, we've put together some information.

CARING FOR YOUR DOG

Housing your dog

Dogs need a weatherproof kennel. It should be kept clean and dry with washable rugs or blankets for comfort and warmth. A weatherproof kennel protects your dog from wind, rain, the sun, and hot and cold temperatures.

Feeding your dog

In general, dogs should be fed twice a day. Breed, age, size, and energy level all factor into how often dogs should eat and how much. Fresh dog food is an increasingly popular alternative to store bought dry kibble and/or wet canned food. Please ensure your dog always has an adequate supply of fresh water.

Exercise and training

Dogs need regular exercise. Walk them at least once a day or let them run in an off-leash dog park. Use positive reinforcement and rewards, like pats and dog treats, to train your dog. Do not physically punish your dog, hitting or beating your dog can increase stress, lower your dog's quality of life, and may increase aggression.

Health tips

Your dog needs annual vaccinations and general health checks. Your vet can also advise you about flea, tick and worm prevention. To prevent unplanned or unwanted puppies desex your dog as soon as possible.

CARING FOR YOUR CAT

Housing your cat

Most cats are happy indoors however if you do allow your cat outdoors, bring them inside at night to protect wildlife. Your cat will also need access to a litter tray which needs to be cleaned regularly and kept in the same spot away from their food and water.

Feeding your cat

In general, cats should be fed twice a day. There are many quality commercial foods available at your local supermarket. Always make sure your cat has an adequate supply of fresh water.

Health tips

Your cat needs annual vaccinations and general health checks. To prevent unplanned or unwanted kittens desex your cat as soon as possible.



CARING FOR YOUR BIRD

Birds need to be able to spread their wings, so check you have the correct size cage for your bird. The cage should be stainless steel and cleaned every few days. Use natural perches and position cage out of direct sunlight, rain and wind.

Feed your bird a diet of natural and commercial food. Check what is right for your bird on the [RSPCA website](#).

CARING FOR POCKET PETS

If you have a pet other than a dog, cat or bird, such as guinea pigs, rabbits or ferrets visit the [RSPCA website](#) for some tips on caring for your pocket pet.

HAVE A PET EMERGENCY?

Contact your local vet or visit the [RSPCA Disaster and Alerts page](#).

