

# Be a Responsible Pet Owner



## Provide the basics

Good food, fresh water and shelter.



## Playtime and affection

Cats and dogs are social animals and need playtime and affection just like people do. Always make time for a pet! Pets that do not get enough attention can develop unwanted behavioural issues.



## Exercise

Cats and dogs need exercise. Otherwise, they will gain weight and may be at greater risk for health and behavioural problems (i.e. vocal and/or destructive tendencies).



## Grooming

It keeps your pet healthy! Pet owners should brush/comb their cats and dogs. Regular grooming is good for their fur and provides an opportunity for pet owners to check for fleas or abnormalities (lumps). Don't forget...grooming also includes: trimming nails, cleaning ears and brushing teeth!



## Veterinary care

In addition to emergency medical care, an annual examination and vaccinations will keep a pet in tip-top shape. Annual check-ups can also help to identify health issues before they become too serious. Did you know that rabies shots are required by law in Ontario?



## Don't litter

A cat or dog should be spayed or neutered to stop them from having babies. It is a medical procedure, performed by a veterinarian. Females get spayed and males are neutered. Spayed and neutered pets live longer, healthier lives and are less likely to get cancer. They are also calmer and better behaved. That's a win-win situation for pets and their owners!