



The CANINE Pre-ADOPTION Guide

Student Manual
Lessons and hacks for pet
parenting



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INTRODUCTION

Statistics indicate that 3.9 million dogs are regularly abandoned or given to shelters every year. With proper identification, 74.1% of missing pets can be returned to their owners. Also, there are only 25 to 30 percent purebred dogs in shelters while most of the others are mutts.

The question that emerges is, given how devoted humans are to dogs and how loving they are themselves, why do shelters get swamped with strays? Consequently, leading to the euthanasia of dogs? The responsibility for using such remedies naturally falls on the owners because animals are voiceless and reliant.

This instructional material is developed with the intention of advising and raising awareness among current and prospective pet owners. For, people must be made aware of the subtleties and significance of pet care and not give up on their animals. Lastly, that they must not abandon them or send them back to the shelters.



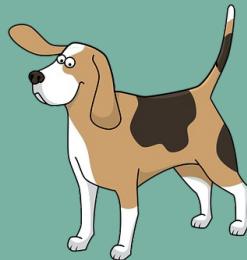
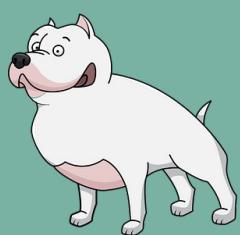
The reason we have so many breeds is that there are so many different kinds of people out there.

-David Frei (Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show)



CHAPTER ONE

BREEDS & CHARACTERISTICS



How well do you know breeds & characteristics?

Why do we have different breeds?

When it comes to their lives and families, humans are often choosy, individualized, and opinionated. Having a pet is one such important life decision that demands careful consideration, deliberation, preparation, and family consensus. Consider not knowing about dog breeds, bringing a pet home, and eventually finding it difficult for both of you to adjust. That must be a nightmare. After all, just as no two people are alike, neither are dogs. Dogs also don't have a high level of obedience at birth. Therefore, it is even more crucial to comprehend their breeds and characteristics.

Dogs have undergone selective breeding to develop specific behaviors, sensory abilities, and physical characteristics. Dog breeds differ greatly in terms of appearance, size, and color. They serve a variety of functions for humans, including therapy, companionship, protection, pulling loads, hunting, herding, serving the military and police, and aiding the disabled.



How well do you know breeds & characteristics?

Some of the most common breeds

Labrador Retriever

- ✓ large
- ✓ friendly
- ✓ sweet
- ✓ family dog



Golden Retriever

- ✓ medium
- ✓ sturdy
- ✓ hunter dog
- ✓ friendly



French Bulldog

- ✓ Small
- ✓ bat ears
- ✓ playful
- ✓ alert



German Shepherd

- ✓ large
- ✓ muscular
- ✓ courageous
- ✓ guard dog



Poodle

- ✓ toy/miniature
- ✓ eager
- ✓ athletic
- ✓ dog shows



Beagle

- ✓ medium
- ✓ sturdy
- ✓ loyal
- ✓ hunting dog



Rottweiler

- ✓ large
- ✓ muscular
- ✓ protector
- ✓ confident



Dachshund

- ✓ small
- ✓ long
- ✓ tiny legs
- ✓ vivacious



How well do you know breeds & characteristics?

Some of the most common breeds

Corgi

- ✓ small
- ✓ athletic
- ✓ lively
- ✓ herding breed



Pug

- ✓ small
- ✓ round headed
- ✓ expressive
- ✓ house dog



Spaniel

- ✓ small
- ✓ cute
- ✓ hunting nature
- ✓ speed
- ✓ long ears



Chihuahua

- ✓ small
- ✓ purse dogs
- ✓ expressive
- ✓ ideal city pet



Doberman

- ✓ large
- ✓ strong
- ✓ fearless
- ✓ protecting breed



Shih tzu

- ✓ small
- ✓ lion dog
- ✓ mischievous
- ✓ affectionate



Great Dane

- ✓ large
- ✓ tall
- ✓ towering
- ✓ sweet
- ✓ home guardian



How well do you know breeds & characteristics?

What are some of the most sought-after traits or characteristics?

Based on physical attributes

- Size- small, medium, large
- Shedding- year-round, seasonally, none
- Barking tendency- low, howl, noisy, extremely vocal, intense barking

Based on energy levels

- Playfulness- less, more, serious, sedate
- Exercise needs- daily, sometimes, rigorous, physically demanding

Based on psychological tendencies

- Intelligence- decision making, obedience training, learning capability
- Sensitivity level- easy-going, tolerant, resilient, thick-skinned

Adaptability to surroundings

- Being alone- ability to stay alone for a certain duration
- Hot/cold weather- depending on the fur and make of the dog
- Dog friendly- whether sociable with other dogs

Adaptability to humans

- Kid-friendly
- Friendly to strangers
- Ease of training for novice owners
- Family/apartment friendly



How well do you know breeds & characteristics?

It's QUIZ time!

(Answer the following questions with the correct dog breed name)

Q. This dog is known for its wrinkly face and bat-like ears

(Hint: This playful breed is known for being easygoing but not terribly athletic)

A.

Q. This dog stands as tall as 32 inches at the shoulder

(Hint: Huge but sweet guardians)

A.

Q. These are small energetic sporting dogs with long ears

(Hint: They are capable of considerable speed and endurance)

A.

Q. These are muscular, protective, tall and fierce looking

(Hint: Skinny built, black and brown)

A.



CHAPTER TWO

THE FOOD REGIME



What should I feed my dog?

Canine nutrition & dietary requirements

Food is an integral aspect of every living being. Among all, dogs are eternally hungry babies. They are ready to gobble and nibble at any given time. Hence, as pet parents, it is essential for you to ensure that your babies neither undereat nor overindulge. Every breed and size can have a different appetite. Puppies typically eat more and require quality as well (formative years) whereas adult dogs usually function on quality over quantity.

The following must-knows can help ensure your pet's diet and nutrition:

- Knowing the answer to how much should you feed your dog
- Understanding which ingredients can enhance the quality of your dog's health and which can hamper it
- Choosing a dog food that helps manage your dog's weight, builds muscle, enhances energy and metabolism, improves digestion, and provides a healthier skin/coat
- Understanding the needs of your dog at each life stage (puppyhood, adulthood, old age)



What should I feed my dog?

Types of dog food

#1: Kibble/Dry

The most affordable kind of dog food. It also lasts longer and doesn't require refrigeration. When selecting a particular brand of dry food, look closely at the components and pick the one that contains wholesome food as its main component.

#2: Canned

Most dogs enjoy canned food, often known as wet food; it can be pricey but has a long shelf life and is widely available at supermarkets. Additionally, around 75% of the food in cans is water. The best canned food to choose for your dog is one that is marketed as "100% nutritionally complete."

#3: Home Cooked

An owner who prepares their dog's food at home can ensure that the nutritional requirements are being met. They will even know exactly what is in it. Even while feeding a home-cooked meal takes more time and money, many owners believe the added trouble is worthwhile for the added peace of mind.

#4: Raw

As bones are a natural supply of calcium and phosphorus, a raw diet consists primarily of raw meat, preferably mixed with some bones (bones should never be cooked; only raw) and organs. Dogs have short digestive tracts and powerful stomach acids, which make it simple for them to absorb and digest raw food. As a result, many dogs respond well to this sort of diet.

NOTE: Consult your veterinarian about the advantages and disadvantages of your dog's proposed new diet before making the switch. Otherwise, your dog can vomit and have stomach problems.

How should I feed my dog?

ACTIVITY

Once you read pages 13 & 14, working in groups, as instructed, you will be provided with an empty bowl and some food packets.

Each group must imagine that they are feeding the dogs of their respective ages. You must fill the bowls accordingly. Once done, you will be quizzed about the frequency of feeding.

Nourishing a Puppy

6 to 12 Weeks

Puppies need to eat frequently and in large quantities because of how quickly they develop. From six to twelve weeks of age, four feedings a day are advised. Additionally, it's a good idea to start puppies off on moistened food to encourage chewing.

3 to 6 Months

During this time, feedings may drop to three times daily. Feeding them puppy-sized quantities is advised until you notice physical evidence of their body growing.

6 to 12 Months

Reduce feedings to twice a day at this age. While it's always a good idea to consult your veterinarian about your puppy's specific growth, smaller breeds commonly move to adult food at 10–12 months, while larger breeds may take a little longer—12–14 months. Bigger breeds should continue puppy food longer, up to 14 months.

NOTE: Mix your dog's current food with the new food and then gradually increase the amount. For a smooth transition, gradually reduce the amount of the old dog food over the course of a week while increasing the amount of the new food.

How should I feed my dog?

Feeding an Adult Dog

Years 1 to 7

Adult dogs are typically fed two halves a day by their owners. How much would that be? It will depend on your dog. To ensure that your dog is receiving the appropriate amount of food, measure the food rather than winging it. Consistency is crucial when it comes to feeding times for dogs, which are often once in the morning and once in the evening.

Years 7+

Your dog is aging, but perhaps more slowly. Remember that dogs age more quickly than people do, and as a result, significant health changes happen considerably earlier in life. Pick a food that has been developed with components that support a healthy immune system, digestive system, and cognitive function.

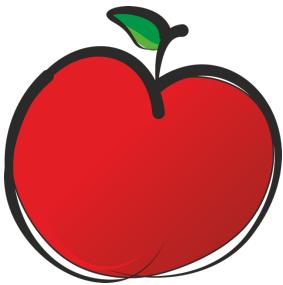
Caring for a Senior

Your dog has successfully ascended the middle-age hill. Senior dogs should be kept an eye out for weight loss indicators, which can indicate various health problems. Feedings twice daily should continue. Consult your veterinarian if you notice any changes in your dog's weight or eating routine.



What should I feed my dog?

Which human food items can my dog eat?
(Attempt the quiz by checking the correct option)



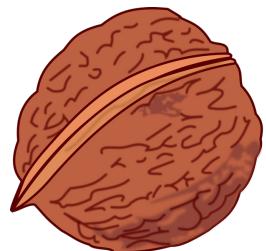
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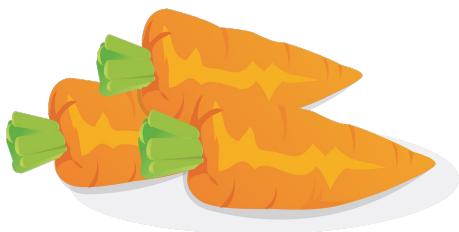
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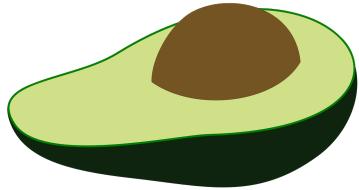
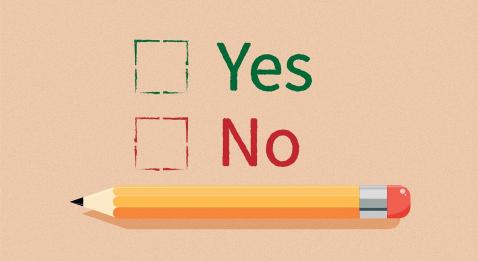
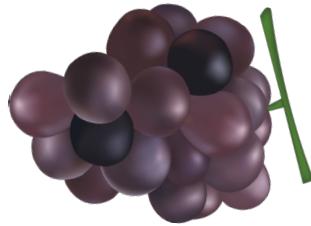
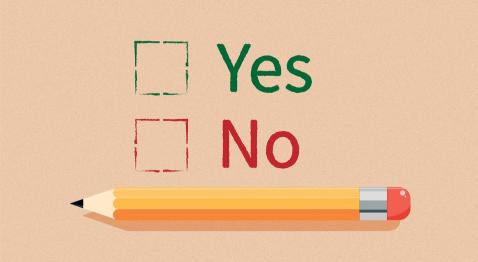
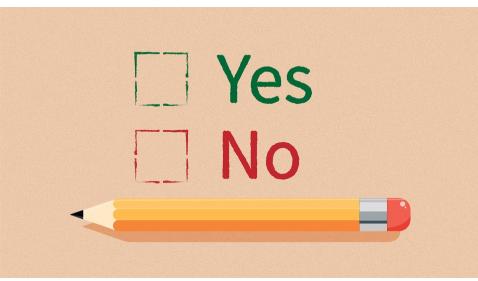
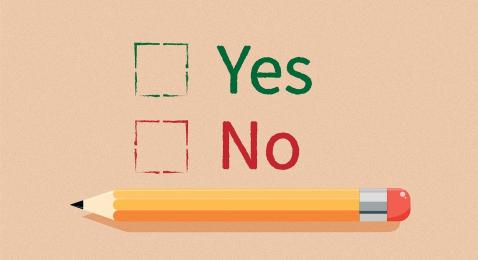
Yes

No



What should I feed my dog?

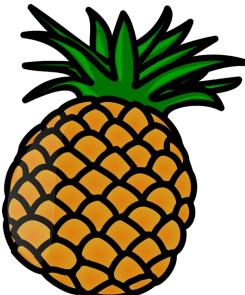
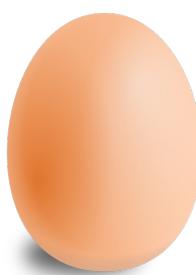
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(Attempt the quiz by checking the correct option)

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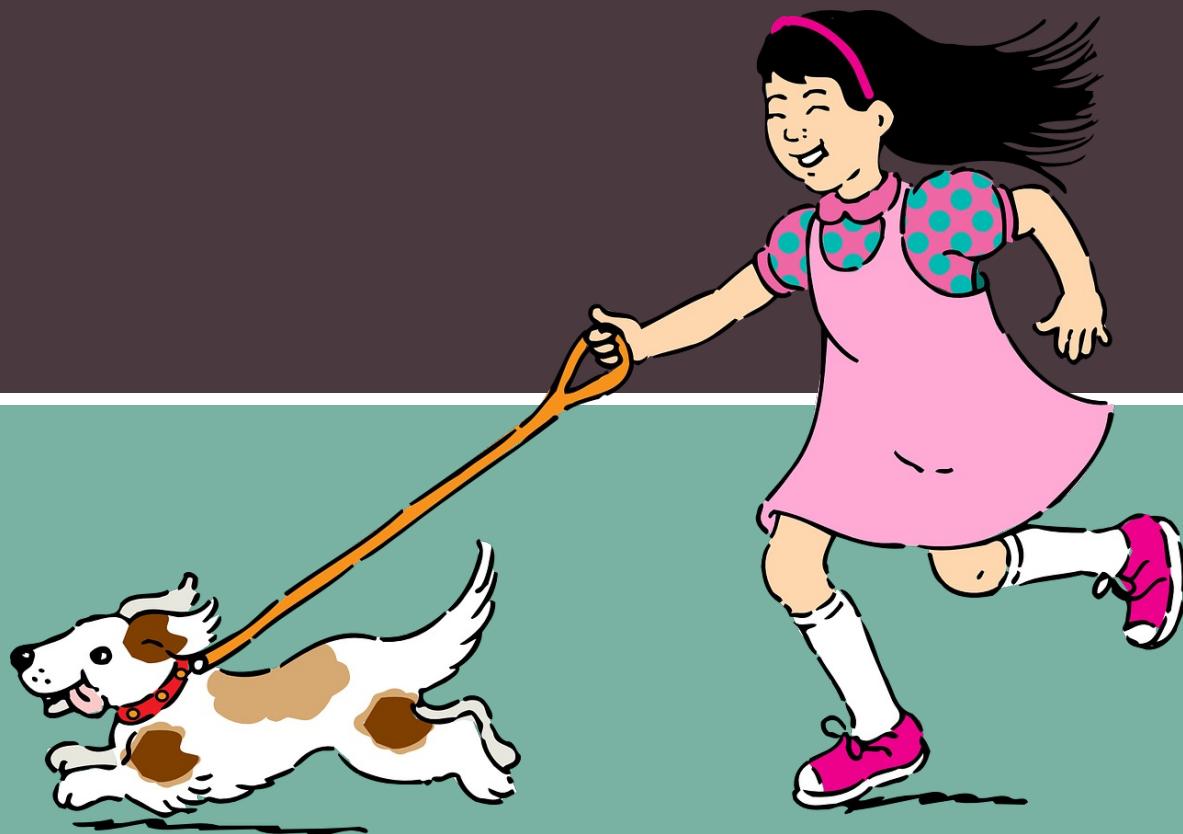
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CHAPTER THREE

EXERCISE CHECK



Who let the dogs out?

Exercising and its benefits

It's a frequent misconception that allowing your dog access to your backyard would ensure they get all the necessary exercise. Since dogs need interaction to start moving, you are their primary motivator to maintain his or their health as a pet parent.

A dog that is worn out is a good dog. Unwanted behaviors like chewing, trash-raiding, and excessive barking can be reduced with regular exercise. The dog will always let you know when they have too much energy!

Dogs are meant to be energetic animals. Each breed is bred for a certain purpose—hunting, herding, or protecting—and none of them are to wait around in a dog bed for their owner to get home from work. Help them; you owe it to your dog.



Who let the dogs out?

How much exercise does my dog need?

Well done if you walk your dog every day! You've got a good start. However, most dogs gain from regular cardio exercises in addition to a 30-minute stroll (anything that causes your dog to pant). Running, swimming, or jumping are a few examples.

Note: Before making any significant modifications to your dog's schedule, keep in mind that puppies and older dogs have specific demands.

Activities by Breed and Size

TOY BREEDS

Exercise for these tiny cuties is sometimes forgotten (perhaps because they are so adorable in your purse!). However, they tend to grow fat. The good news is that exercising toy breeds indoors is quite simple.

PUGS AND BULLDOGS

Any breed that has a flat or short nose may have breathing issues. Exercise lightly, take pauses as needed, and avoid exercising outside when it's hot and humid.

TERRIERS

These guys are known to be very energized. With a daily activity of at least 60 minutes, they'll thrive.

SIGHTHOUNDS

Sighthounds (aka sprinters) are better adapted for quick, intensive bursts of activity. They don't make the best jogging partners, but interval training is where they really shine.

HERDING DOGS

Herding dogs are larger and more easily bored since they are workers by nature. This indicates that they require more vigorous exercise and crave it. It's beneficial to exercise twice a day for up to two hours.



CHAPTER FOUR

HEALTH IS WEALTH



How to keep a track of your pet's health

What are the essentials?

1. Routine vet checkup

At the very least once a year, you ought to take your dog to the vet. Your dog's weight, blood pressure, vision, hearing, and teeth will all be examined by the vet. Depending on how you evaluate a puppy's health or symptoms, you might need to visit more frequently.

2. Brushing of teeth

In order to spare your dog's pain, you should avoid cavities and periodontal disease. Having the teeth and gums taken care of can positively benefit your doggy's holistic health. Brushing daily is ideal.

3. Regular cutting of nails

Make sure to periodically trim your dog's nails to prevent soreness in the toes and nails. Knowing the right technique is crucial to avoid damaging their blood vessels. Ask your vet before trying.

4. Regular bathing

Regular bathing with a dog-specific shampoo will help keep your dog healthy. They'll also smell better as a result!

5. Using dental chews

Another excellent technique to maintain your dog's dental health is using dental chews. Your dog will love the flavor while they remove excess plaque from its teeth.

6. Heartworm medication

Since heartworms are a major issue for millions of pets, many pet owners opt to regularly administer preventative heartworm medication. These medications are offered in oral, topical, injectable, and chewable forms.

7. Checking for ticks/fleas regularly

Make sure you check your dog for ticks and fleas. Do it especially when they come from outside and have interacted with other dogs.



CHAPTER FIVE

ADOPTION READY?



Let's get you adoption-ready!

Here are some helpful websites that talk about pre-adoption & pet-adoption checklists.

These can be a useful read after covering the topics in our instructional guide:

[Passing adoption screenings](#)

[Dog adoption checklist](#)



Let's get you adoption-ready!

- *How well do you understand breeds & characteristics?*
- *How do we feed the dogs based on their lifecycle and size?*
- *What kind of physical activity is required for dogs?*
- *Do you understand the nuances of a dog's health?*
- *Are you aware of veterinary doctors in your neighborhood?*
- *Do you have enough time to commit to a dog?*
- *What will you do when you must move places?*
- *Is there any potential for people or other pets to develop an issue with the new dog?*
- *Are you ready to shower love on a new member and be selfless as well?*

CONCLUSION

Having read through these adoption essentials, do you feel prepared enough to proceed with adoption?

Moreover, how certain are you of taking good care of your pet and not giving up on it?

There is no greater joy and satisfaction than saving voiceless creatures. We as humans, superior to most beings, can give back to nature through such acts of compassion.

Let empathy and kindness prevail!

Let's get your pup home!

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