

FEEDING YOUR DOG

- Puppies eight to 12 weeks old need four meals a day.
- Feed puppies three to six months old three meals a day.
- Feed puppies six months to one year two meals a day.
- Feeding older dogs one meal a day is usually enough for them. For some dogs, including larger canines or those prone to bloat, it's better to feed them two smaller meals.

Premium-quality dry food provides a well-balanced diet for adult dogs and may be mixed with water, broth or canned food, if you choose.

Puppies should be fed a high-quality puppy food that is right for their breed (large breed puppy food for large breeds).

We know it can be hard but please limit "people food," because it can result in vitamin and mineral imbalances, bone and teeth problems and may cause very picky eating habits and obesity.

Clean, fresh water should be available at all times, and be sure to wash food and water dishes frequently.

<https://www.aspc.org/pet-care/dog-care/general-dog-care>

PET ADOPTION

A dog can be a wonderful addition to any home, but whether you're an experienced pet parent or a first-time adopter, it's important to keep your canine companion's health and happiness a top priority.

CHOOSING THE BEST DOG FOR YOU

- Match a dog's attitude, size, temperament, and activity level with your family, your home, and the amount of time you have to spend with your pet.
- Pick a dog that is bright, alert, and playful.
- Signs of illness in a dog include appearing sluggish or depressed, having diarrhea, abnormal breathing, and fluid running from its eyes or nose. Make sure to take your new dog or puppy to the veterinarian within a few days after adoption.

<https://www.aspc.org/pet-care/dog-care/general-dog-care>

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pets/care/dogs.html>

PET CARE BASICS FOR YOUR DOG



An info guide for the care, feeding, grooming, and exercise of your dog.



**Harker Heights
Pet Adoption Center
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EXERCISE

Dogs need exercise to burn calories, stimulate their minds, and stay healthy. Individual exercise needs vary based on breed or breed mix, gender, age, & health.

Exercise also tends to help dogs avoid boredom, which can lead to destructive behaviors. Supervised fun and games will satisfy many of your pet's instinctual urges to dig, herd, chew, retrieve and chase.

GROOMING

Help keep your dog clean and reduce shedding with frequent brushing. Check for fleas and ticks daily during warm weather.

Most dogs don't need to be bathed more than a few times a year.

Before bathing, comb all mats from the coat. Fully rinse all soap out of the coat and dry thoroughly.

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HANDLING

To carry a puppy or small dog, place one hand under the dog's chest, with either your forearm or other hand supporting the hind legs and rump. Never attempt to lift or grab your puppy or small dog by the forelegs, tail or back of the neck.

If you have to lift a large dog, lift from the underside, supporting his chest with one arm and his rear end with the other.

HOUSING

- Your pet needs a warm, quiet place to rest, away from all drafts and off the floor. A training crate or dog bed is ideal, with a clean blanket or pillow placed inside.
- Wash the dog's bedding often.
- If your dog will be spending a lot of time outdoors, be sure they have access to shade and plenty of cool water in hot weather, and a warm, dry, covered shelter when it's cold.

<https://www.aspc.org/pet-care/dog-care/general-dog-care>

FLEAS AND TICKS

Daily inspection of your dog for fleas and ticks during the warm seasons is important. There are several methods of flea and tick control. Speak to your veterinarian about these and other options.

SPAYING AND NEUTERING

Female dogs can be spayed and male dogs neutered by 6 months.

MEDICINES AND POISONS

Never give your dog medication that has not been prescribed by a veterinarian. If you suspect that your pet has ingested a poisonous substance, call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center for 24-hour animal poison information at (888) 426- 4435.

VACCINATIONS

Your dog benefits from receiving a number of vaccinations. Please visit your veterinarian for more info.

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