

## Be a Responsible Pet Person

Sharing your life with a pet can bring many years of enjoyment and unconditional love. Taking a pet into your home and making him or her a healthy and happy member of your family takes work! Read through this checklist below and find out if you are a responsible pet person. Your pets will thank you.

- Thinking about responsibilities before you adopt a pet.
- Getting your pet spayed or neutered.
- Making sure you can care for your pet throughout his or her lifetime.
- Providing your pet with nutritious food and fresh water each day.
- Putting a collar and an identification tag on your pet that includes a clearly written name, address and phone number.
- Taking time and patience to train your pet by using praise and attending training classes.
- Making sure your pet is taken care of when you go away for the day or on vacation.
- Spending time with your pet each day exercising, and giving love and attention.
- Safe containment, a fenced yard is best, do not chain your pet.
- Giving your pet shelter with a comfortable, quiet, dry place to sleep or rest when needed.
- Taking your pet to a veterinarian for regular check-ups, vaccinations, and treatment for illnesses.

## Top Ten List The top ten things you can do to help animals!

1. Be a responsible pet person. Give your pet proper food, water, exercise, and spay or neuter your pet.
2. Offer to help an elderly neighbor. Ask if you can help walk or groom a dog, change kitty litter, and/or clean a bird cage.
3. Respect the environment when you are hiking. Pack in your supplies and take your trash out with you. Don't disturb animals in their homes.
4. Build a bat house or a bird house.
5. Write a puppet show or play about caring for animals and perform it for a school assembly.
6. Read a story about animals to younger students.
7. Collect blankets and food for your local animal shelter.
8. Ask if you can help your local wildlife agency collect data about wildlife.
9. Raise money for your local animal organization. Bake sales, garage sales, car washes, and collection cans are good projects.
10. Be kind and respectful to people and animals.

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