





# Pet Ownership





Owning a pet is a privilege, but the benefits of pet ownership come with responsibilities.


## Be a Responsible Pet Owner:


 Avoid impulsive decisions when selecting a pet.

 Select a pet that's suited to your home and lifestyle.

 Keep only the type and number of pets for which you can provide appropriate food, water, shelter, health care and companionship.


 Commit to the relationship for the life of your pet(s).


 Recognize that pet ownership requires an investment of time and money.


 Make sure your pet receives preventive health care (vaccinations, parasite control, etc.), as well as care for any illnesses or injuries.


 Provide appropriate exercise and mental stimulation.


 Clean up after your pet.


 Don't allow your pet to stray or become feral.


 Properly socialize and train your pet.


 Limit your pet's reproduction through spay/neuter, containment, or managed breeding.

 Obey all local ordinances, including licensing, leash requirements and noise control.

 Make sure your pet is properly identified (i.e., tags, microchips, or tattoos) and keep its registration up-to-date.

 Prepare for an emergency or disaster, including assembling an evacuation kit.

 Make alternate arrangements if you can no longer provide care for your pet.

 Recognize any decline in your pet's quality of life and make timely decisions in consultation with a veterinarian.

This message brought to you by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

