



Dogs are incredible companions. Friendly, devoted and full of beans, they seek human companionship and will enrich any family's life. A dog's lifespan will depend in large part on its size; medium-large dogs live 8-14 years, while small dogs can live up to 16 years.

## Dog Basics

All dogs need excellent care to remain healthy throughout their lives. Treat your dog as a member of your family and ensure he has access to all of the following basics.

- Dogs need good quality food to stay healthy. Check the package to make sure the dog food has the CVMA (Canadian Veterinarian Medical Association) certified symbol.
- It is usually recommended that dogs get fed twice a day, once in the morning and once at suppertime. There are many different types of dog food; raw, home cooked and kibble. Ask your veterinarian which food is right for your dog.
- Your dog needs continuous access to water. It's even more important during hot days to make sure your dog's water dish is always full. Change the water every day to keep it fresh, and wash the dish regularly.
- Dogs are very social animals and yours should live inside with your family. If outside alone at all, he should have a warm, covered place, away from wind, sun and rain and a dry place to lie down.
- All dogs need exercise. Different breeds of dogs need different amounts of exercise but they all need a daily run and play session. Leaving your dog in the back yard is not a substitute for exercise. Play fetch with your dog or take him to an off leash park where he can run safely.



## Keeping a Happy Dog

The saying is true: a dog can be your best friend! Dogs love to be around people and other dogs; they are extremely social animals that need interaction and communication in order to feel safe and content. Remember that your dog depends on you for attention and love. He may get bored and sad if left on his own. Invite a dog into your family only if you can care for him his whole life.

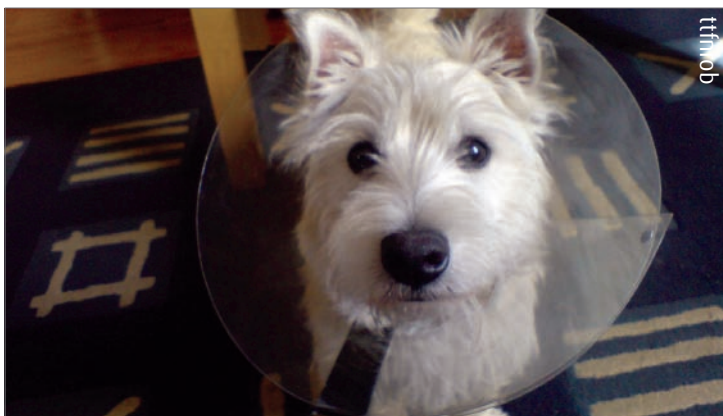
## Training Your Dog

Dog treats can be a great way to help train your dog. Use them as reinforcement for good behaviour, or to distract your dog from behaviour he should be avoiding. Treats should not replace dog food, as they aren't a complete, balanced food. Avoid too many treats, as an overweight dog is subject to health problems.

Training your dog how to behave will ensure he can live happily with your family. An untrained dog can upset people, run into traffic or chase wildlife. Training can be an excellent bonding experience for you and your dog; training should be fun, pleasurable for both you and your dog, and set the course for life-long learning. Dogs love tasks; a trained dog is a happy dog!

Dogs learn best when they are taught using treats, love and attention. Never hit, yell or intimidate your dog. This will encourage a fear response and will not help him learn.

Take your dog to a good obedience class and practice at home. Practice and learn new commands throughout his life to help him remember his training and keep his mind active.



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# Petiquette

Living Well with Your Pet

**CRD** | Planning & Protective Services

## Health Care

- All dogs need a check-up at least once a year. Your dog will need vaccinations to help him stay healthy. Dogs may also need flea, heartworm or tick medicine. Check with your vet.
- If your dog is sick or gets hurt you must take him to see the vet just as you would go to the doctor. Vet bills should be considered when you're thinking of getting a dog. Health insurance is also available for dogs.
- If your dog has longer hair it will need to be brushed every day, but even dogs with short hair can be brushed. When you brush your dog take the opportunity to look for any bumps or scrapes that you may otherwise not have seen. Grooming is a great chance for bonding. Don't forget to give him a treat after you're finished!
- Brushing your dog's teeth at least once a week will help his teeth stay healthy. Dogs get plaque on their teeth too; brushing their teeth will keep them healthier and get rid of doggie breath. Use a dog toothpaste and toothbrush, which can be found at the vet's.
- Dogs should be spayed or neutered when they are 6 months old. This will help your dog stay healthier, calmer and less aggressive. There are more dogs than good homes in the world.



**Capital Regional District** | Animal Control  
 212-2780 Veterans Memorial Parkway  
 Victoria, BC V9B 3S6  
 Tel: 250.478.0624  
 www.crd.bc.ca



James Gray-King

**Love Your Pets!**  
 Dog Care