

# *First-time Dog Owner's Guide*

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Dallas Animal Services

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## The Necessities of a Dog

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Adopting a dog for the first time can be just like having your first child. A dog's true needs are few yet vital to their health and happiness.

Here are some tips on what a dog's necessities are and how to be the best dog owner out there.

# Top 6 items for your dog

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## **1) Dog Kennel**

Properly measure your dog and choose the right material for the kennel. It is important that your dog is able to move around, stand, and stretch inside the kennel.

## **2) Dog Food**

First consider your dog's age, activity, breed, and reproductive status. Then determine the type and brand of dog food.

## **3) Dog bed**

## **4) Dog toys**

## **5) Collar & Leash or Harness**

A harness can relieve the pain and discomfort from the dog's neck.

## **6) Dog treats**

Be sure to limit the amount of treats your dog can have each day.

# Dog Care Tips

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Materials aside, a typical dog will be asking for head scratches, belly rubs, cuddling, and your never-ending love.

## Exercise

Take the time to know your dog's play style and toy preference. By doing so, you will be able to buy the appropriate toys for your dog. Another form of exercise is take your dog on casual walks outside around your neighborhood or at your local park. Please be mindful of the weather, especially with summer and winter temperatures.



## Microchipping

By microchipping, you as an owner can provide your dog a permanent form of identification.

It is key to register your information with your microchip company and continue to update your information. Shelters scan every pet for a microchip to help reunite owners with their pet.

# Dog Care Tips

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## Hygiene

Dogs are considered to be unhygienic and it's your duty to keep their nails trimmed, bathed, teeth brushed, and their items washed.

Trimming your dog's nails regularly will help prevent injuries to your dog's feet. Groomers highly recommend the method of grinding your dogs's nails with a grinder suited for dog nails. Give your dog a bath once a month and if needed, use a tick & flea killing shampoo. Teeth should be brushed once a week with canine-toothpaste. Properly clean your dog's food bowls, bed, and toys.



## Spay & Neuter

Spaying refers to preventing a female dog from the ability to reproduce and neutering is the equivalent to male dogs. Spaying and neutering has its health benefits for your dog such as providing them a healthier, longer life, and reducing behavioral problems.

# Dog Care Tips

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## Vaccinations

Core-Vaccinations are vital to your dog's health since they prevent the risk of exposing your dog to diseases that can be transmissible to humans.

## Heartworm

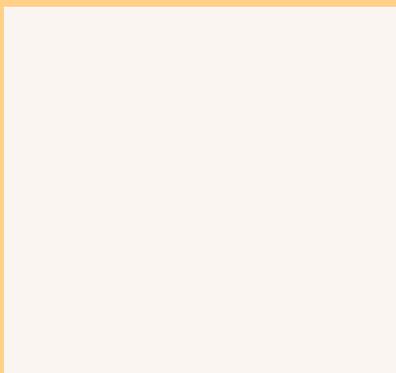
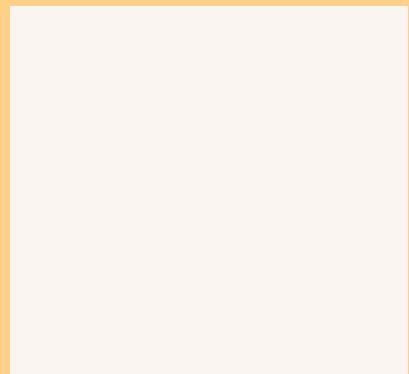
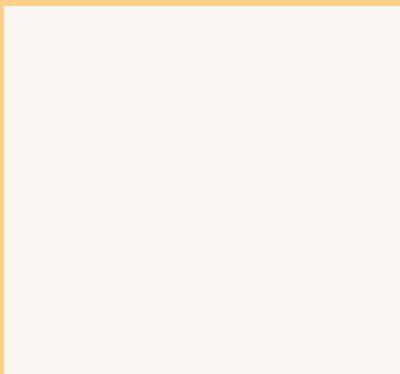
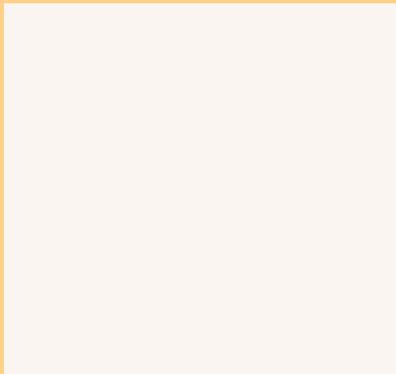
Heartworm disease can affect your dog's health and quality of life by causing damage to the heart and lungs. Talk to your vet about giving your dog treatment and preventative drugs as soon as possible.



## Fleas & Ticks

Regularly use sprays, shampoos, and mists formulated to repel fleas or ticks. Discuss with your vet about treatment for fleas and ticks for your dog.

If you were to have any concerns with your dog's health or behavior, be sure to contact your local veterinarian.



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*"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself."* –  
Josh Billings