

# Be your dog's best friend and *a good neighbor!*



## *Love and Enjoy Your Dog!*

**FOLLOW THESE 12 STEPS.** You and your dog will win lots of friends - and fans - around your neighborhood.

**TRAIN AND SOCIALIZE YOUR DOG** Train your dog to respond to basic commands, such as sit, stay and come. Training helps keep your dog safe and helps ensure that kids and other people will be safe around your dog. Introduce your dog to many adults and children so it will be comfortable around strangers.

**LEASH YOUR DOG** Always keep your dog on a leash in public. Obey local leash and licensing laws. Loose dogs can get hit by cars or cause traffic accidents. If possible, consider a fenced-in enclosure or yard.

**IDENTIFY YOUR DOG** Be sure to keep your dog's identification tag with contact information up-to-date on its collar at all times. Consider microchipping as a means of permanent identification, and enroll your dog in a national recovery registry to greatly increase the chances your dog will be returned to you in case of separation.

**PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG** Clean up after your dog in public. Before leaving for an outing, put several plastic grocery bags in your pocket to use for quick and easy pick up.

**CONSIDER SPAY AND NEUTER** If you don't plan to participate in dogs shows or breed your purebred dog, spaying and neutering are responsible ways to prevent accidental breedings that result in unwanted puppies.

**STOP BOTHERSOME BARKING** While most dogs bark for good reason, few things will alienate you from your neighbors more quickly than excessive barking. Dogs are social

creatures who want to spend time with their owners. Play with your dog every day, and provide dog chews and toys. Exercise and training also provide outlets for excess energy.

**WATCH THE WEATHER** Never leave your dog unsupervised in direct sunlight or a closed vehicle. This can cause heat stroke and death. Be sure to provide adequate shelter for your dog in all types of weather.

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY ...** Be sure that your dog and other pets are part of your organized emergency evacuation plan. Rehearse the plan repeatedly with your family.

## *Keep Your Dog Healthy!*

**NUTRITION** Consistency is key when it comes to feeding your dog. Feed the same high quality dog food at the same time each day. Don't overfeed. Provide plenty of fresh water, and keep your dog's bowls clean.

**EXERCISE** Exercise your dog regularly to reduce the risk of heart disease, joint problems, diabetes and overall poor health. Consider your dog's age, health and current activity level when starting a new exercise routine.

**GROOMING** Brush and bathe your dog on a regular basis. Keep his ears clean. Clip his nails too!

**VETERINARY CARE** Take your dog to the vet for a check-up at least once a year. Stay current on vaccinations, and maintain a flea-and-tick-control program. If you are uncertain how to treat your dog's medical needs or if you have any questions about your dog's health, contact your veterinarian.

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