



# BRINGING HOME A NEW PET

The Do's and Don'ts of Adding a New  
Member to the Family

# New Pet Shopping List



- Before you bring a new pet home, there are several items you will need to buy to be ready to welcome your pet into your home
- You want your pet to feel comfortable and know that they have a place in your home
- You don't want to be running around frantically to get all of your pet's supplies when they are already in your home



# New Pet Shopping List

ITEM	DOGS	CATS
Bowls for food and water	✓	✓
Comfortable bed	✓	✓
A supply of food	✓	✓
Toys	✓	✓
Collar or halter	✓	✓
ID tag	✓	✓
Grooming supplies – brush or comb	✓	✓
Leash	✓	
Litter box and litter		✓
Travel crate		✓
Wee-wee pads	✓	



# Create a Space for Your New Pet

- Decide where your pet's place will be in your home
- Pets need a warm space where the temperature stays even
- Buy a bed for your pet that is warm and comfortable
- Buy some toys for your pet and place them in or near the bed

# Create a Space for Your New Pet

## Do's

- Provide your pet with a bed that is warm and comfortable
- Provide toys that you and your pet can enjoy
- Pet-proof your home by removing items that might hurt your new friend – remove poisonous houseplants and put dangerous household chemicals in a safe place

## Don'ts

- Don't put the bed in a cold or drafty place
- Don't get toys that your pet might swallow
- Don't leave small items like paperclips or rubber bands around,

# Feeding

- Make sure your pet has their own food and water bowls
- Choose convenient times to feed your pet and **STICK TO THEM** – pets like a set routine for feeding
  - Puppies and kittens should be fed up to four times a day
  - As they get older, feedings can be reduced to twice a day

# Feeding Do's and Don'ts

## Do's

- Stick to your feeding schedule
- Allow enough time for your pet to eat
- Always prepare food fresh for each feeding
- Make sure fresh water is always available

## Don'ts

- Don't hover over your pet – allow them some space to eat
- Don't leave old food in your pet's bowl between feedings

# Medical Care

- Select a veterinarian for your pet
- Get your new pet a check-up right away
- Consult your vet on which vaccinations your pet will need – vaccinations are important to protect you and your pet from diseases
- Make sure to ask your vet any questions about your pet's health and what cleaning/bathing your pet needs



# Housebreaking

- For cats
  - Show them where the litter box is located
  - With kittens you may need to place them in the box and gently dig the kitten's paws into the litter; they will get the idea very quickly
- For dogs
  - You need lots of time and patience
  - Whenever you see your dog about to go to the bathroom, take them outside immediately
  - Make sure wee-wee pads are available for a puppy and show the puppy where they are
  - Be sure to praise your puppy for proper bathroom behavior either on the wee-wee pad or outside

# A Few Final Do's and Don'ts

## Do's

- Set up a schedule to care for your pet and make sure everyone in the family knows their responsibilities
- Give your new friend plenty of love and affection
- Follow your vet's advice and quarantine your new friend from other pets until he has all of his shots
- Train your pet properly to be a good family member
- Have patience – accidents will happen

## Don'ts

- Let your pet run loose
- Encourage biting, snapping or jumping on people
- Let your pet remain outside for long periods
- Allow your pet into your neighbors' yards
- Put anything around your pet's legs or tail