



BEING A GOOD DOG OWNER

Owning a dog should bring you immeasurable joy, fill your heart with love and give you lots of special memories. Owning a dog is also a huge responsibility, ensuring the safety of yourself, family, friends and general public but also ensuring the safety of your dog. Giving him a happy and secure home life.

Things to Think About Before You Get a Dog

- Will a dog suit your lifestyle and fit in with your family?
- Can you afford the expense of owning a dog?
- Is your family likely to grow in the future?
- Where do you live? House, Flat, Busy Road?
- Have you sufficient space for a dog?
- Are you willing to walk your dog in all weathers?
- Are you prepared to clear up after your dog?
- Would your car be suitable?
- Family holidays ... Do you take your dog with you or kennel him?

Once you have considered the above points do your research, ask friends who have dogs about their dog and their experiences.



What dog is right for you, think about breed, adult size, long haired or short haired? Talk to the experts. If you are considering adopting a rescue dog talk to us at Axarquia Animal Rescue, we always have dogs looking for their forever homes and will be happy to discuss any of our dogs with you. We can discuss your home space and lifestyle and can advise you on a suitable size and breed to help match you to the perfect dog to join your family.

Think carefully about where you are getting your dog from. There are many dogs being bred at Puppy Farms and sold through newspaper adverts and at pet stores. Always ask to see all the paperwork when you go to see a puppy and ask questions about the parent dogs or ask to see them.

Dogs need a lot of time and attention, some more than others. They all need daily exercise and play time. They also need mental stimulation. You will need to spend time training your dog, especially if you get a puppy. You may decide to take your dog along to training classes.



Dogs are a long term commitment, some dogs can live up to 15 years old or more. There are expenses you need to consider other than the obvious food and treats.

- Collar & Lead
- Food & Water bowls
- Grooming Brush
- Toys
- Annual Injections
- Vet Bills
- Pet Insurance
- Training Classes
- Bed & Bedding
- Crate or Kennel
- Poop scoop & bags

Be a Responsible Dog Owner

Your main responsibility of owning a dog is to provide him with everything he needs for a happy healthy life.

Your dog will need a well balanced diet. Follow feeding guidelines on the packaging to ensure he receives the correct amount of food for his size. He should always have fresh water available to him. He will also need chews and toys to keep him occupied and avoid boredom.



You are responsible to make sure your dog is well behaved around other people and other dogs. Dog training classes will help teach him.

Don't leave your dog home alone for long periods of time home, he may become bored and start barking or become destructive. If you have a friend or neighbour that knows your dog well you could ask them to look in on him and maybe take him for a walk or run in the garden.

Your dog should have his own space within your home, ideally a crate where he can feel safe. Never allow children to get in the dogs crate, kennel or bed. These areas belong to your dog.

Your dog will need regular exercise. You should walk him at least twice a day. Once he is trained and you know he will come back when called, let him run off lead where and when it's safe and legal to do so and spend time playing with him. Never allow your dog off lead near farmland where there are animals as he may chase them causing harm and distress, you will also be faced with a very angry farmer.

You need to keep an eye on your dog's teeth and gums, nails and ears; any concerns consult your vet. He will also need annual vaccines given by your vet and regular treatment against worms & fleas. You should also groom your dog regularly, this helps remove old fur and makes him look nice. He will also enjoy it and it's an opportunity to check the condition of his skin.



He must wear a collar with identification tag showing his name, name & address of the owner and a contact telephone number. It is now law that all dogs must be micro chipped. The dogs and registered owners details are kept on a National Database. If your dog should get lost this helps his speedy return. If you change your details make sure you change it on your dogs tag and update details for his microchip.

Neuter your dog. There are so many unwanted puppies and they are not always easy to home. It's not cruel and in some cases can improve behavioural problems. For more information about the benefits of neutering your dog talk to your vet.

