



Maricopa County
Animal Care and Control

GENERAL DOG CARE



Congratulations on deciding to adopt a dog. Dogs are wonderful and fun companions. Following are some helpful tips on caring for your new furry friend.

BEFORE YOU BRING YOUR DOG HOME

You will need food, food and water dishes, interactive toys, brush, comb, collar and leash. A dog crate is also suggested.

FEEDING

Follow a feeding routine. Feed your dog high-quality food at the same time every day. Provide fresh, clean water at all times.

- Puppies from 6 to 12 weeks old need to be fed small meals 4 times a day.
- Puppies from 3 to 6 months old need to be fed 3 times a day.
- An adult dog should be fed one large or two smaller meals.

GROOMING

Dogs should be bathed when dirty; at least two to three times a year. Certain breeds of dog need regular haircuts. Frequent brushing helps keep your dog's coat clean and reduces the amount of shedding.

TRAINING/LIFESTYLE

When you first bring a new dog home you are building a new relationship. It is important to set up a training program and stick to schedules.

- Enroll your dog in an obedience/training class. It will help teach your dog how to be a good citizen at and away from home. It will also help you better communicate with your dog. All training should involve positive reinforcement techniques.
- Dogs can learn very quickly where to go potty. As soon as your bring your dog home, put him on a regular "outside" schedule. Use positive reinforcement to praise your dog when he goes outside. Correct your dog *only* when you catch him in the act. You can use a dog crate to assist with your potty training program.
- An exercise program is an important part of your dog's lifestyle. Aim for an hour of exercise each day. Exercise is the key to your dog's physical and mental health.
- Play is very important for your dogs well-being, whether it be with toys, other dogs or humans. Provide lots of playtime for your dog.

For more information on animal care, behavior or MCACC programs, contact (602) 506-PETS or visit pets.maricopa.gov

HEALTH

Your dog should see a veterinarian at least once a year for an examination and annual vaccinations, and immediately if he is sick or injured.

- Fleas and ticks are a problem that should be taken very seriously. They feed off of your pet, transmit tapeworms and irritate the skin. Carefully check your dog once a week for fleas or ticks.
- Spay or neuter your dog before they become sexually mature (between 4-6 months). Spaying a female helps prevent breast cancer and pyometra (uterus infections.) **It also prevents unwanted animals from being born.** Neutering a male can prevent marking, decrease the urge to roam, looking for a mate, and reduce aggression.
- Vaccines are an extremely important part of keeping your dog healthy.
 - Beginning at six to eight weeks of age, puppies should be given a vaccine that protects against distemper and parvo.
 - Your dog will need yearly boosters. Please see a veterinarian for more information about vaccines and your pet's health.

- All dogs over the age of three months are required to be vaccinated for rabies. The first rabies vaccine is good for one year. You can get a rabies vaccination at any of our locations or at your veterinarian's office.

IDENTIFICATION

All dogs over the age of three months are required, by law, to have a current Maricopa County dog license. The law covers unincorporated Maricopa County, and the cities and towns within Maricopa County. Check with Fountain Hills and the Indian Communities for specific licensing requirements.

An application for a license must be made within 15 days of (rabies) vaccination. Residents new to Maricopa County and new dog owners must purchase a dog license within 30 days. A penalty fee will be assessed for late applications. The term of the license is based on the month and day of the most current rabies vaccination and is valid for one calendar year.

Licenses are \$17 for sterile dogs and \$42 for unaltered dogs.

Also consider a microchip. It is inserted under your dogs skin and has your information on it. All lost pets are scanned for microchips. Microchips can be obtained at MCACC or from any veterinarian.