



# Tips for Responsible Dog Ownership



*Dogs need order and leadership which means good canine manners starts with you!  
Bark Busters has compiled a list of essential tips to help you to be a responsible dog owner*

**Get your dog spayed or neutered.** Spayed/neutered pets not only live longer and healthier lives, but they also make better companions. The best age to spay/neuter a dog is around five to six months old, at the beginning of puberty. Talk to your vet about the right time for your dog.

**Provide proper identification.** Your dog should always wear an ID tag with your name, address and phone number. Getting your dog microchipped gives an added layer of protection and increases the chances that he will be returned to you if he is lost.

**Get training to help you understand your dog.** Knowing your dog's unique temperament and tendencies will help you to better control how he behaves. A well-behaved dog is less likely to upset people and pets in public places, will be more welcome at gatherings, and will enjoy a better relationship with everyone he meets. Plus, his good manners will reflect positively on you, his responsible owner.

**Schedule regular check-ups with your veterinarian.** Choose a veterinarian who shares your medical philosophies and beliefs, then follow his/her recommendations for vaccinations, diet, spaying/neutering, annual checkups, and other care.

**Make time for your dog.** Owning a dog is a big responsibility that takes time and discipline. Make time daily to pet, play with, take on walks, or do other activities with your dog that are fun for both of you.

**Give your dog regular exercise appropriate for his breed, age, size, and other unique characteristics.** Whether it's a short walk or a rousing game of fetch, exercise is essential to your dog's physical and mental health.

**Provide shelter for your dog.** A crate or kennel is an ideal place for your dog to rest and sleep for a limited amount of time. The enclosure should be large enough for your dog to sit, stand and turn around comfortably, but small enough to retain his body heat inside the shelter.

**Travel safely.** Keep your dog safe in the car by using a pet travel harness, pet car seat, or a carrier/crate. Never let your dog ride free in the back of the car (he could be hurt if you brake sharply) or allow him to hang his head out of the window. It could be a danger to his eyes.

**Watch for temperature extremes.** Never leave your dog in the car in hot or even warm conditions outside. Your car is like an oven in the sunshine and temperatures rise in the car, even on warm days and can be fatal.

