

DOGS



Scientific name: Canis lupus familiaris

For Ages: 8 & up, with adult supervision

Pet lifespan:

Small breed: 14 to 22 years.

Medium - large breeds: 11 to 14 years.

Large - very large breeds: 8 to 12 years.

Pet Size: Every breed has an average size. They can range from very small (5lbs) to extremely large (150lbs+)

Nutrition

Staple diet: Make sure that the food you choose is appropriate for your dog's stage of life. A puppy eating an adult food will not get the higher amounts of calories, protein, vitamins, and minerals they need for proper growth. An adult dog eating puppy food is likely to become overweight. An older dog may need a senior food that is more easily digested. When it comes to nutrition, ***one size does not fit all.***

Treats & chews: Treats should not exceed 10% of total food intake.

Water: Change and fill your dog's bowl with clean water every day.

Supply list

Here's a list of the necessities you'll need to take home to help your new puppy stay healthy and happy

- Home: Comfortable bed or basket
- Pet carrier for smaller breeds
- Water bowl
- Food bowls
- Adjustable collar
- Leash
- Fortified dog diet
- Treats & chews
- Toys: Pick toys appropriate for your dog's age, breed, size and need
- Books and magazines
- Comb or brush
- Find a veterinarian and be sure to take your dog in for annual exams and vaccinations!

Habitat

Housing: There are many housing options available for your dog including heated houses, insulated houses, plastic or even wood houses. The benefit of providing your dog a house is they can keep them safe and warm when they are outside.

Crates: Crate training can be a great way to provide your dog with a 'safe' and comfortable environment that is all their own. Remember though, never use a crate as punishment! Crates are meant to be a safe place.

Bedding: A good dog bed will provide a private space, sense of security, insulation from the floor in both winter and summer. Dog beds can also help cushion your dog's joints and bones and control the spread of hair, dirt and dander.

Traits & Behavior

Training: Some dogs are easier to train than others. Teaching your dog or puppy basic obedience commands can sometimes be tricky, but the reward of a happy, healthy pet makes it worth the time and effort it takes to train your dog. Learning how to stay, sit and heel is important for both you and your dog's happiness and safety. There are many variations and theories on how to train a dog, but most professional dog trainers will tell you to reward good behavior and negatively reinforce bad behavior

Health

Signs of a healthy dog:

- Clear, bright eyes
- Glossy, full coat
- Active & alert
- Eats & drinks normally

Things to watch for:

- Bare patches in fur
- Dandruff
- Lethargic behavior
- Weight loss; not eating or drinking normally
- Diarrhea
- Ears should be clean, nose cool and damp without any nasal discharge with pale pink mouth and gums

Things to remember

Lifting & Handling: Lift your puppy when they're in a standing position. By waiting until your puppy is standing on all four legs, you minimize the pressure you place on the puppy when you pick them up. Put one hand under their chest and one under their bottom. Use even pressure to lift your puppy off of the ground so they don't slide forward or backward out of your hands. Keep your hands even as you raise your puppy off of the ground. Keep your puppy close to your chest. Close contact like this helps them feel safe and well cared for.

Spaying & neutering: There are many benefits to having your dog spayed or neutered. Six months of age is an ideal time to spay or neuter your dog. For females, having them spayed will prevent them from going through heat cycles. Un-spayed females can go into heat several times a year, and these cycles can last up to three weeks, and include such behaviors as spraying of urine, aggression, and some other obnoxious behaviors. Neutering a male before he reaches puberty can help prevent the development of all mating behavior, which includes spraying urine and marking territory with urine, and the desire to roam outside searching for a mate.

Vaccinations and Deworming: Annual vaccinations are very important for dogs, as is a proper parasite prevention schedule. Ticks are very common in and around Kimberley, and some can carry Lyme Disease, which is zoonotic (Meaning it is transmittable to humans!) Many other internal parasites are also zoonotic. Your veterinarian will advise you of a proper schedule and can provide you with the vaccines and parasite medications that will be suitable for your specific dog, based on their lifestyle.

Safety & Cleanliness: Please remember that all pets may bite or scratch, and may transmit a disease to humans. Remember to wash your hands before and after handling your pet.

Tip: Most dogs don't like to be left alone so they bark or howl. Leave the radio or television on to keep your dog company when you are away. 2 are also better than 1! They are pack animals and love companionship.



www.kimberleykritters.com
info@kimberleykritters.com
250-908-3746