



## How to be a good pet parent...

Your pet relies on you for shelter, warmth, food, exercise and most importantly love. Here are some facts that will help you to be the best animal parent you can be!

### Register

Registering your cat or dog is an important part of being a responsible pet owner. You should register your pet in case it strays and gets hurt, sick or lost, this will make it easier to have your furry family member returned to you.

### Microchip

Each year, thousands of pets find their way into **animal shelters** because they get lost from home. Another way to help your pet find its way back is to have it microchipped. Microchips are tiny **computer chips**, which are about the size of a grain of rice. If a pet with a microchip escapes from home and is found, the microchip can be scanned to get your details or your vets details and you and your pet can be reunited.



### Safe and secure yard

Make sure your back yard is safe and secure for your pet, especially if you have an adventurous dog. You can check the fences around your yard for any gaps that your dog might be able to squeeze through. It is also important to make sure that any gates are closed and locked before your pet ventures outside. If you have a dog who likes to dig there are also things you can do to make it harder for them to get under the fence and escape. Your mum or dad will be able to help you with this.

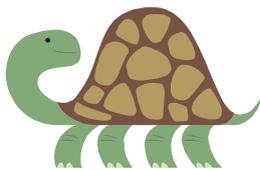
### Exercise

Exercise is a great way to keep your furry friend fit and healthy and can also help them live longer. As a wonderful pet parent, part of your job is making sure your animal family members get safe, enjoyable exercise on a regular basis, whether they're cats, dogs, turtles, or ferrets! All pets need some physical activity to live a happy, healthy life.

Different pets need different amounts of exercise, so it's a good idea to talk to your vet about what's best for your pet.



### Shelter



If you keep your pet outdoors during the day make sure they have plenty of shade on a hot day and somewhere warm and secure to go when it's cold. It is also important to make sure they have a source of fresh water that they can't easily tip over while your not there.

### Food and water

Like people pets need a balanced diet to help them stay fit and healthy for many years. The correct diet for your pet will depend on whether you have a dog, cat, fish or bird so it's a good idea to ask your vet about what you should be feeding your pet.



### Desex

Have your pet desexed at any early age. This helps with the problem of unwanted puppies and kittens, can benefit your pet's health and can also help them to be better behaved.

Pets that have been desexed generally live longer and healthier lives, are less aggressive and can become more affectionate with their owners.