



# Tips for Responsible Dog Owners



Dogs need order and leadership from their “pack leader,” which means that good canine manners start with you! Bark Busters has compiled a list of some essential tips to help you be the best dog owner possible.

**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 they will be returned to you if they are lost.

**Get training to help you understand your dog.** Knowing your dog's unique temperament and tendencies will help you to better control how they behave. 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 they meet. Plus, their good manners will reflect positively on you, their 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 behavioural 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 their 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 a Ute (he could be thrown into traffic) or allow him to hang his head out of the car window (a danger to his eyes).

**Watch for temperature extremes.** Never leave your dog in the car if it is extremely hot or cold outside. Your car is like an oven under the blazing sun and a freezer in the bitter cold.

This information is brought to you as a public service by Bark Busters Home Dog Training-the world's largest, most trusted dog training company. Bark Busters is the only international dog training company that offers guaranteed lifetime support. Find out more information by contacting your local dog behavioural therapist at 1800 067 710 or by visiting [www.BarkBusters.com.au](http://www.BarkBusters.com.au)

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