

*Full of advice
on caring for
your pet*

Your guide to **Dogs**



*Jollyes, only the
best for you and your pets*



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Are you ready?

Committing to owning a dog is an exciting step but also a huge responsibility. The average life span of a dog can be anywhere between 12 to 14 years.



Dogs can be trained at any age

Owning a dog, like any pet, can be an extremely rewarding experience. Your dog with their energetic personality and loyal and committed nature will become an important member of the family and a life long friend. However it is important to remember the commitment and responsibilities that come with owning a dog and the amount of care they will require throughout their life.

Once you are certain you and your family can provide a loving, long lasting home for your dog you must consider the following.

Are you really ready for a Dog?

Have you done your homework? Have you researched all breeds and found a reputable breeder that you trust. If you buy a pedigree dog then you should receive kennel club registration papers.

Can you afford a Dog? You must take into account the cost of food per month, toys, accessories and bedding. On top of that you have flea and worm controls, grooming, kennel and day care requirements, vet bills and pet insurance to name a few.

Do you have the time to spend with and exercise your Dog?

It is not advised to leave your dog for more than four hours at a time as this can result in separation anxiety and bad behaviour. Regular walks and exercise are an essential part of your dog's development. Your dog will require a lot of your time so be sure you have it to offer.



Selecting your Dog

Pedigree or cross - breeds? The Kennel Club recognises over 188 pedigree breeds, which does not take into account the variety of cross – breeds available. Consider the sizes, grooming requirements, how energetic they are and their temperament and personality.

Male or Female? Female dogs come into season up to 3 times a year. In this time they must be separated from males to ensure any unwanted pregnancies. Male dogs can become irritated if they are not separated from females during their season.

Spay or neuter? To avoid unwanted pregnancies it is advised to have your pet sterilised. This will not have negative effects for your dog. It will not alter with their personality, behaviour or weight. It has been known to decrease aggression, roaming and increase concentration.

Adoption? Unfortunately there are a large number of dogs in need of loving and caring families for life. You should consider adopting a puppy or an adult dog from an animal re-homing centre. Providing a loving home to a rescue dog is a very rewarding experience.

At home with your Dog

You are finally ready to take your new dog home. It is important that you have your dog checked by the vet as soon as possible. It is also advisable to insure your dog. This will provide financial assistance if needed in the future.

Sleeping arrangements-

It is important to make your new dog feel comfortable in their new surroundings.

A bed or basket will

provide a safe place where your new dog will feel happy and secure and recognise this area as their specific place.



Toys & Chews - Dogs of all ages love to play with toys and chew on things. Provide your dog with a variety of toys designed specifically for chewing which will also keep them entertained for hours.



Diet

How often should I feed my Dog?

Your dog will require two meals a day.

How much food should I feed my dog?

Follow the guidelines on the petfood packet. It is important not to overfeed your dog as this can lead to obesity. Obesity in dogs will cause serious health problems such as diabetes, heart disease and arthritis.

A complete, well-balanced diet is essential

What should I feed my Dog? Your dog will require a healthy and balanced diet that meets all their nutritional requirements. It is advisable to feed your nutritionally complete dog food rather than a homemade diet.

Can I give my Dog treats? Treats are a good way to train your dog by rewarding them for good behaviour. Offer treats in moderation, as they are high in calories, which will turn into fat if your dog does not receive enough exercise.

Water - Your dog should have access to fresh clean water at all times.



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Health

Register your dog with a local vet as soon as possible.

How important are vaccinations? Vaccinations protect your dog against many diseases that can in the most extreme cases cause fatalities if not treated. They need their first vaccination at 8 weeks followed by numerous booster vaccinations throughout their life.

Fleas and worms - Your dog should be treated for fleas and worms on a regular basis. Effective treatment can be bought at you local Jollyes, please ask an assistant for advice.

Signs of fleas - If your dog has fleas it can cause itching, chewing and licking. The skin can become irritated and inflamed. If your dog has these symptoms it is important to act straight away. Consult your local vet if you are unsure.

Signs of illness - Include: Sickness or diarrhoea, weight loss, lack of appetite, not drinking, little energy, sleepy, skin conditions, swellings, limping and signs of pain. If you think your dog has any unusual symptoms then seek advice of your local vets as soon as possible.

Microchipping - Will ensure your beloved dog is reunited with you if lost.



**Dogs need
regular daily
exercise**



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Shopping Checklist

We recommend the following items for your new dog.

Dog Checklist

- Bed/basket
- Food and water bowls
- Suitable dog food
- Grooming brush, comb and nail clippers
- Worm and flea treatments
- Toys and chews
- Treats
- Collar/harness and lead
- Identification tag/disc
- Dog flap
- Poop scoop
- A car crate, car divider or car harness
- Dog care book

For further information contact:

Jollyes Petfood Superstores
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