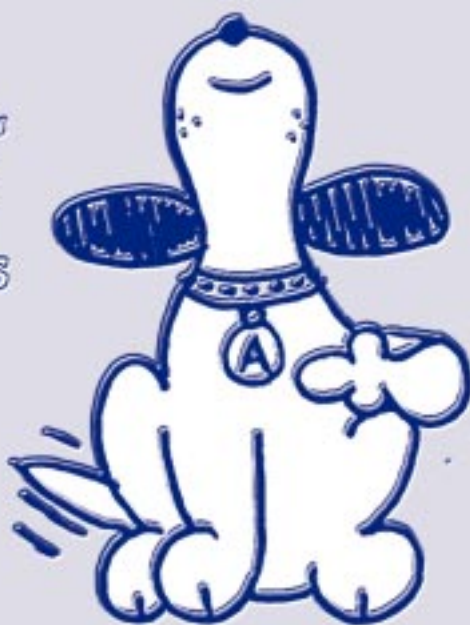


Promoting Responsible Ownership of DOGS

Abby says
Pets
not
Pests





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INTRODUCTION

Abby, our Aberdeenshire mascot will help you think about some of the questions you should ask yourself and your family, before deciding to own a dog. Abby will then point out the responsibilities you must assume once you have your dog. Many of these are legal duties, and others are what every responsible pet owner should strive to achieve. Please read this booklet carefully. Should you require any more information, please see the back cover for the contact details of the Aberdeenshire Council Dog Wardens.

THINKING OF GETTING A DOG?

Are you willing to accept your responsibilities as a prospective dog owner?

-  Are you prepared to be responsible for all your dog's needs throughout its life?
-  Are you willing to train your dog and not allow it to become a nuisance to other people?
-  Are you prepared to clean up after your dog when it fouls?



Pet or Pest

Owning a dog can bring great enjoyment but it is also a lifelong responsibility. A dog needs to be cared for properly and responsibly, which includes staying within the law and not allowing your dog to become a nuisance to other people.

Can you afford to keep a dog?

Initial expenses - cost of dog or puppy, bed and bedding, lead, collar and name tag, food bowls, food, dog guard or pet carrier for the car, puppy-training books, grooming brushes and combs, initial health check, vaccination and worming tablets.



Everyday expenses - food, chews, pooper-scoopers and toys.

Medical expenses - vets bills - including health check and annual vaccinations, neutering of both male and female dogs to prevent unwanted puppies, regular worming, flea control and emergency treatment.

Other expenses - training classes, boarding fees for when the family is away on holiday; grooming costs e.g. clipping/stripping, pet health and accident insurance.



Do you have the time?

Can you spend quality time in enough quantity with your new pet?

- 🐾 To train, groom, care and socialise a puppy.
- 🐾 To exercise and play with your dog.
- 🐾 To exercise your dog in a suitable place locally in all weather conditions and seasons?

All breeds of dog demand a lot of time and attention, particularly when they are puppies.

A dog can live for an average of 13 years - you will be responsible for your pet for all of its life.

Is your house suitable for a dog?

- 🐾 Do you have a garden/yard which your pet can use?
- 🐾 Is your garden/yard fenced and dog proof?
- 🐾 Is your house big enough for you, your family and a dog?
- 🐾 Are you allowed to keep a dog in your home? - Check with your landlord first.

Health and Allergies

- 🐾 Is any member of your family allergic to dogs?
- 🐾 A member of the household must be fit enough to regularly exercise and play with the dog. This includes being able to bend down and use a pooper-scooper.

CHOOSING A DOG

Dogs are **not designer accessories** - choose your new dog to suit you, your lifestyle and your family, not on what is fashionable.

What size and age of dog should I get?

- 🐾 Decide which breed and type of dog will suit you and your lifestyle.
- 🐾 Consider the size of your house and garden. How many people and pets share this space already?
- 🐾 An older dog rather than a young puppy may be more suitable for less active people.



Where can I get a dog from?

- 🐾 A licensed breeder.
- 🐾 A rescue centre.
- 🐾 Ask your veterinary surgeon/dog warden for advice.

Specific Breeds

- 🐾 Information about different breed characteristics e.g. size, exercise requirements and temperament can be found in books or from breeders or breed advisors.
- 🐾 Visit a dog show and speak to owners of different breeds before buying.

Once you have decided which breed of dog you would like, there are two important questions to ask the breed advisor:

- 🐾 Are there any particular health problems associated with the breed?
- 🐾 Do breeders screen their stock for potential problems and how do you, as a potential buyer, check that they do this?

Rescue Dogs

- 🐾 Find out why the dog had to be re-homed - the rescue centre may have details of the dog's previous history.
- 🐾 Has the rescue centre assessed the dog's behaviour? How does the dog react to children and other dogs or cats? Does it prefer male or female handlers? Is it house-trained or is it an outside kennel dog? Is it destructive?
- 🐾 If it is a puppy, do they know to what size it will grow?
- 🐾 Return policy - will they take the dog or puppy back if it is unsuitable?



TAKING YOUR NEW DOG HOME.

What equipment will I need when I take my new dog home?

- 🐾 Bed and bedding - a dog needs to have its own bed in a quiet place where it will not be disturbed.
- 🐾 Food and water bowl.
- 🐾 Grooming equipment.
- 🐾 Lead, collar and identity tag showing your name and address.
- 🐾 Supply of poop scoops.



- 🐾 Dog training manual.
- 🐾 Suitable food - diet sheet from breeder, or ask what the dog has been fed on, and times of meals.
- 🐾 It is important not to change a dog's diet too quickly, as this could lead to an upset stomach.
- 🐾 Dog guard, seat restraint or travelling cage for use in your car.

When you introduce a puppy or new adult dog into your home, an indoor kennel/ travelling cage can be a useful training aid when used correctly.

Remember - DOGS DIE IN HOT CARS

Never leave your dog unattended in a vehicle on a hot sunny day, even in the shade - the sun will move!

Vets and the Health of Your Pet

Don't wait for an emergency before you contact a vet!

- 🐾 Register your dog at your local veterinary surgery.
- 🐾 The vet will give your new dog a health check - general health, weight, teeth, eyes and coat.
- 🐾 The vet will provide you with advice on:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Diet | Grooming |
| Vaccinations | Pet Health Insurance |
| Worming and other parasites | Dog training Classes |
| Neutering | |



Training

Your new pet's training begins the day you get it home i.e. basic commands, toilet training and barking. If there are children in the house, it will be important to supervise them when they play with their new pet so that you can intervene should the child or pet become too excited.

- 🐾 Teach your new dog its name.
- 🐾 Teach your new dog the basic commands - No, Sit and Come.
- 🐾 Enrol your dog in a training class or puppy socialisation class.
- 🐾 Show young children how to behave towards their new pet.



- 🐕 Teach good travelling behaviour in cars - daily short journeys in the car will get your new dog used to travelling and help reduce excitable behaviour and travel sickness.
- 🐕 Teach your new dog to foul in its own garden before taking it for a walk - but remember always to carry a pooper-scooper - just in case!

Aberdeenshire Council Dog Warden Service can advise you about local dog training classes.

Children and Dogs.

Children and dogs are good for each other if the following simple rules are observed:

- 🐕 Show children how to behave towards their new pet e.g. not to touch the dog while it is eating or sleeping and to be gentle and kind to it.
- 🐕 Show the dog how to behave towards children e.g. no jumping up, stealing food or biting.
- 🐕 Do not leave children and dogs alone together - always supervise them.
- 🐕 Only responsible children that are capable of controlling their dog should be allowed to exercise the dog without adult supervision.
- 🐕 Children in control of a dog are legally required to “scoop the poop” if their dog fouls in a public place.
- 🐕 Ensure children wash their hands after handling pets, playing outside and prior to eating.

DOGS AND THE LAW

Never allow your dog to stray. You or another responsible person must always be with your dog when it is in a public place. Dogs may be prohibited from certain recreational areas or children's play parks. Please ensure that you exercise your dog in a permitted area.

- 🐕 Your dog must wear a collar and tag with your name and address on it, outwith your property, even if it has been microchipped. (Control of Dogs Order,1992)



- 🐕 You commit an offence (for which you may be fined) if you fail to clear up after your dog if it fouls in a public place. (Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982)



- 🐾 Your dog must always be on a lead when walking beside a designated road. (Roads (Scotland) Act 1984)
- 🐾 Tenants - check legalities of having a dog in your home e.g. missive of let.
- 🐾 The Local Authority will keep stray dogs for 7 days to allow their owners to claim them. Thereafter they can be rehomed or destroyed. (Environmental Protection Act 1990)

DOG WARDENS

Aberdeenshire Council Dog Wardens promote the responsible ownership of dogs.

The Dog Wardens can be contacted for information on the following:

- 🐾 microchipping
- 🐾 dog fouling
- 🐾 barking or nuisance dogs
- 🐾 lost or found dogs
- 🐾 your dog and the law
- 🐾 your responsibilities as a dog owner
- 🐾 dog training classes



The Dog Wardens also have an educational role. Regular visits are made to schools throughout Aberdeenshire to speak to children on the subject of responsible pet ownership. Requests for talks from schools, youth groups and other organisations are welcome. (See contact details on back cover)

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A DOG

Try and secure the dog either by a lead or piece of rope, or put it in a shed, garage or garden, until the dog warden can get there. Only try these things if the dog appears to be friendly. Never approach a dog if it is growling at you.

Monday to Friday - 8.45 a.m. to 5 p.m. - contact your local dog warden and inform them:

- 🐾 where and when you found the dog
- 🐾 a description of the dog
- 🐾 your name, telephone number and address.



Evenings, Weekends and Public Holidays - contact your local police station and inform them:

- ☹ where and when you found the dog
- ☹ a description of the dog
- ☹ your name, telephone number and address

The Police will only accept dogs if taken to the Police Station. They will not uplift strays unless causing a nuisance on a road.



Remember - you have a legal obligation to report the finding of a stray dog.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU LOSE YOUR DOG

During office hours - contact your local dog warden and let them know:



- ☹ the time and place your dog was lost
- ☹ the dog's name and description
- ☹ your name, address and telephone number

Outwith office hours - contact your local police station and let them know:



- ☹ the time and place your dog was lost
- ☹ the dog's name and description
- ☹ your name, address and telephone number.

WHAT THE WARDENS DO WHEN THEY FIND A DOG.

If the dog warden finds a dog (which has been reported missing) or it is wearing a collar and identity tag, it will be returned home without charge, on the first occasion only.



All dogs are scanned to see if they have been microchipped. Dogs that are microchipped will be returned home without charge, on the first occasion only. (This is dependent on the owner being at home, and capable of receiving the dog.)

Dogs without identification are taken to a local kennel where they are kept for seven days. During this time, the owner can reclaim the dog, after payment of the appropriate fees.

At the end of seven days, dogs which have not been reclaimed are assessed for health and temperament and, based on that assessment, are either rehomed or humanely destroyed.



Dogs that are picked up by the dog warden on more than one occasion are automatically taken to kennels and the appropriate fees must be paid before the dog can be reclaimed.

When the owner claims their dog, and it has not been microchipped, they are issued with a voucher, after payment of appropriate fees. This voucher entitles them to a free microchip for their dog.

Remember - if your dog always wears a collar and name tag, it can easily be returned home.

PETS AND HEALTH - THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Fleas

Adult fleas survive by feeding on your pet's blood. This can cause irritation and scratching but can also be the cause of more significant health problems e.g. allergic skin disease.



Fleas can be responsible for passing tapeworms to dogs and cats.

Flea bites may also affect your family.

Fleas breed rapidly in warm, carpeted homes - it is important therefore to treat your home and not just your pet.

If you have more than one dog or there are cats in the household, it is necessary to treat them all at the same time as you treat your home.

Worms



Roundworms (including *Toxocara canis*) and tapeworms are intestinal parasites and can be found in any dog at any age.

In young animals, worms may cause sickness and diarrhoea but adult dogs may show no sign of infection.

Worming is easy, effective and relatively cheap.

Adult dogs should be wormed routinely 2 - 4 times a year.

Worm all dogs and cats in the household at the same time using a product purchased from your vet.

Pregnant bitches and puppies should be wormed more frequently. Consult your vet before treating young or pregnant animals.

You are not at risk from *Toxocara canis* eggs in freshly deposited faeces. The eggs only become infective after approximately three weeks. Therefore worming and cleaning up after your pet helps to reduce the risks of toxocara infection.



Ask your veterinary surgeon for further advice and available products.

It is important to treat your pets for both fleas and worms.

Neutering

Unless you have definitely decided to breed from your pet, it is better to have it neutered.



The operations are routine and may reduce the possibility of certain health problems in later life.

Male dogs may be less aggressive after neutering and get into fewer fights. Neutering may also reduce the male dogs' urge to stray.

Bitches come into season on average twice a year. During this time she will have a discharge which may be messy in the home. She will also attract many male dogs to your house and garden.

Neutering can be carried out at any age, after maturity.

Ask your veterinary surgeon for further advice on neutering your pet.

Preventable Diseases

Like you, your pet can catch many diseases and infections.

Some of these diseases may be life threatening, difficult to cure and expensive to treat.

Many diseases can be prevented by annual vaccination. These include:

Dogs -	Distemper	Cats -	Cat Flu
	Parvovirus		Feline Leukaemia
	Leptospirosis		Feline Enteritis
	Hepatitis		

Every pet should be protected against these diseases.

Your dog or cat will not be boarded at a kennel or cattery unless you have proof that they have the required vaccinations.



Puppies or kittens usually start a vaccination course at the age of eight weeks of age. They should not be allowed out or mix with other pets until they are fully vaccinated.

Regular boosters are required to keep your pet protected.

Your vet will issue you with a record of your pet's vaccination status.



TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND CONTACT ADDRESSES.

Aberdeenshire Council

Dog Warden (North)
Environmental Health
60 Broad Street
Peterhead
AB42 1BX

Telephone: 01779 475183

Aberdeenshire Council

Dog Warden (Central)
Environmental Health
Gordon House
Blackhall Road
Inverurie
AB51 3WB

Telephone: 01467 620981
Ext. 5005 or 5012

Aberdeenshire Council

Dog Warden (South)
Environmental Health
Viewmount,
Arduthie Road
Stonehaven
AB39 2DQ

Telephone: 01569 768224

Your Veterinary Surgeon's Telephone Number:

