

Pet Care Checklist

A guide for dogs and cats

Daily Essentials

Dogs:

- ☐ Fresh water available at all times
- ☐ Nutritious food according to age and breed
- ☐ Daily walk/exercise (adjust based on breed needs)
- ☐ Potty breaks every 4-6 hours
- ☐ Check for any signs of illness or injury
- ☐ Mental stimulation (toys, training)

Cats:

- ☐ Fresh water available at all times
- ☐ Nutritious food according to age and activity level
- ☐ Clean litter box daily
- ☐ Playtime and interaction
- ☐ Check for any signs of illness or injury
- ☐ Scratching post available

Grooming Routine

Dogs:

- ☐ Brush coat (frequency depends on breed)
- ☐ Check and clean ears weekly
- ☐ Trim nails as needed (usually every 2-4 weeks)
- ☐ Bathe as needed (over-bathing can dry out skin)
- ☐ Brush teeth regularly with dog-specific toothpaste

Cats:

- ☐ Brush coat regularly (helps prevent hairballs)
- ☐ Check and clean ears periodically
- ☐ Trim nails as needed (usually every 2-4 weeks)
- ☐ Occasional bath if needed (most cats self-groom)
- ☐ Brush teeth regularly with cat-specific toothpaste

Health & Wellness

Dogs:

- ☐ Annual vet check-up
- ☐ Vaccinations up-to-date
- ☐ Heartworm prevention
- ☐ Flea and tick prevention
- ☐ Deworming as recommended by vet
- ☐ Monitor weight and body condition

Cats:

- ☐ Annual vet check-up
- ☐ Vaccinations up-to-date
- ☐ Flea and tick prevention (if applicable)
- ☐ Deworming as recommended by vet
- ☐ Monitor weight and body condition
- ☐ Be aware of common cat diseases

Environmental Enrichment

Dogs:

- ☐ Provide a variety of toys
- ☐ Rotate toys regularly to keep things interesting
- ☐ Puzzle toys for mental stimulation
- ☐ Safe chew toys
- ☐ Training sessions and games

Cats:

- ☐ Provide a variety of toys (wands, balls, etc.)
- ☐ Scratching posts and cat trees
- ☐ Rotate toys to maintain interest
- ☐ Window perch for bird watching
- ☐ Safe hiding places

Safety First

Dogs:

- ☐ Secure fencing or leash when outdoors
- ☐ Keep toxic substances out of reach (cleaning supplies, medications, etc.)
- ☐ Be aware of potential hazards during walks (e.g., hot pavement)
- ☐ Proper identification (collar with tags, microchip)
- ☐ Safe transportation (crate or seatbelt harness)

Cats:

- ☐ Keep toxic substances out of reach (cleaning supplies, medications, poisonous plants, etc.)
- ☐ Secure windows and balconies
- ☐ Be aware of potential hazards (string, rubber bands)
- ☐ Proper identification (collar with tag, microchip)
- ☐ Safe transportation (carrier)

Summary

This checklist provides a general guideline for pet care. Always consult with your veterinarian for specific recommendations based on your pet's individual needs. Consistent care and attention are crucial for ensuring a happy and healthy life for your beloved companion.