

DOG PARENTING GUIDE

Pioneering new standards
in Dog Welfare:

India's first comprehensive
guide for Dog Parents



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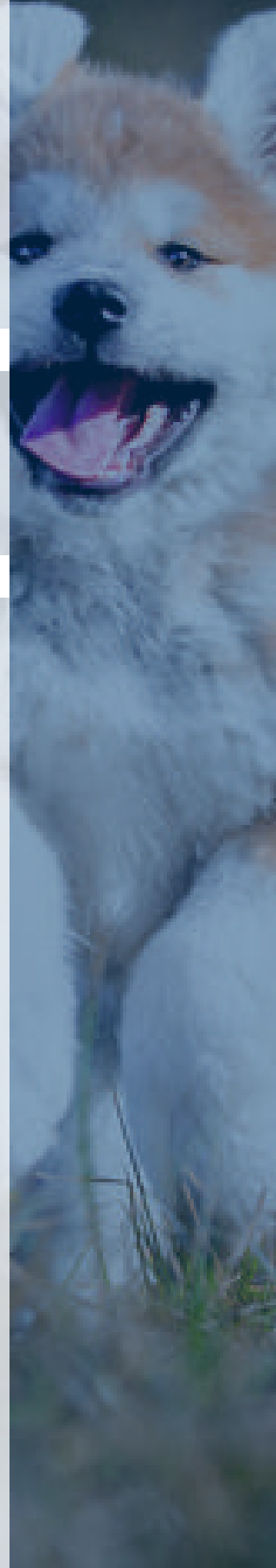
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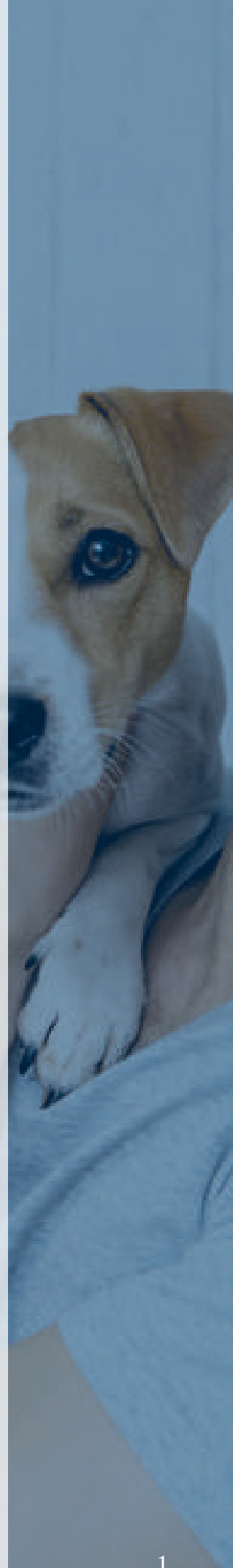
CHAPTER 1

Human-Dog Relationship

1.1 Origin of Canid

Canids, a family of wolves, foxes, dogs and other similar species, trace their origins back millions of years. The early canids, known as Miacids, roamed the earth nearly 50 million years ago, evolving into various species and eventually giving rise to the ancestors of modern-day dogs. Scientists have uncovered valuable information about their evolutionary history through genetic research and fossils.

Some theories suggest that the roots of dogs lie in a mutually beneficial relationship between early humans and wolves, dating back millennia. These theories suggest that modern-day dogs share ancestry with wolves, forged through bonds possibly formed by the wolves' hunting and guarding abilities. Over time, humans began selective breeding of early dogs to meet various needs, such as companionship, guarding, hunting, search and rescue and sledge pulling. As a result, early dogs developed unique traits, including sociability and emotional bonds with humans, setting them apart from their ancestral wolves.



1.2 Evolution of Companion Animals: How Dogs Became Man's Best Friend

The transformation of wild canids into loyal and beloved companions is quite a fascinating journey of thousands of years. The root of the domestication of dogs lies thousands of years ago when humans started developing agricultural communities. Humans got attracted by the guarding and hunting skills of wolves while the wolves were fascinated by the availability of food scraps in those communities. Wolves that were less aggressive and more tolerant of human presence may have had advantages in terms of scavenging from human campsites or receiving food scraps. After this formation of a mutually beneficial relationship between humans and the wolves, the latter became compatible with human society and deepened the human-wolf relationship.

Over time, selective breeding played a significant role in shaping various dog breeds with desirable and specialised traits like herding, hunting and guarding. In addition to human influences, early dogs themselves contributed to their evolution as companion animals as they started exhibiting outstanding capability to adapt and form profound emotional bonds with humans. Their ability to understand and respond to human emotions proved crucial in the domestication of dogs.

Today, dogs have become an essential part of human society, providing companionship and happiness.

1.3 The Modern Dog: Today's Dogs in Different Environments

In today's world, dogs can be found in different situations and various places.



Dogs on the Street

Many dogs in India today spend their entire lives on the streets. Most of them are born there, while some are abandoned by their human parents. These dogs usually endure a life lacking proper medical care, but as responsible caregivers and citizens of India, one can support initiatives that promote the welfare of street animals, such as adoption of dogs, participation in spaying/neutering campaigns, rescuing and supporting animal shelters.



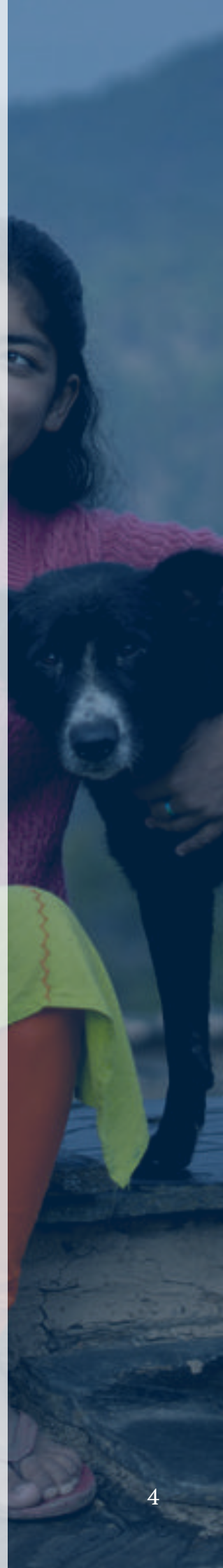
Dogs in Shelters

Shelters serve as temporary homes for abandoned, lost, diseased, injured, or disabled animals. They offer rescue and physical and mental well-being for animals until they find a dog parent or permanent home. Consider adopting a dog from a shelter to provide a home for the dogs in need and to alleviate the burden on overcrowded shelter owners.



Dogs at Home

Many dogs have a home, but unfortunately, some have irresponsible human parents or caretakers. Some pet parents knowingly or unknowingly neglect their pets' general needs and requirements. Some dogs endure excessive confinement, harsh training, and a lack of nutrition, companionship and comfort at home. Responsible dog parenting at home entails meeting the needs and desires of the dog.



Dogs at Pet Shops

Pet shops offer opportunities for pet parents to buy puppies or dogs. While some shop owners ensure the health and living conditions of the animals, many neglect their well-being. As responsible pet parents, one should not support shops that disregard animal welfare and engage in unethical breeding practices. It is always recommended to consider adoption over buying pets, and it's worth noting that puppies in pet shops are often sourced from breeding farms.



Stores with animals confined in cramped cages, like the one shown here, raise concerns about their treatment of animals.

Dogs at Breeding Farms

Breeding farms are establishments that engage in breeding dogs (and other animals) for various purposes. Some farms also engage in mass production of puppies to earn a profit, which puts animal well-being at stake.

Instead of purchasing dogs, it is always a compassionate choice to adopt a dog or puppy from the shelter.



Breeding farms that confine dogs in cages, like the one shown here, raise ethical concerns.

1.4 Becoming a Good Pet Parent

Having a pet entails responsibility and commitment. Dogs, being sentient beings capable of experiencing emotions similar to ours, deserve our utmost care and attention. It is crucial to honour the promise and commitment we make to our pets. Being a good pet parent extends far beyond providing food and shelter. It also includes fostering a loving bond, safeguarding their health and well-being, and establishing a secure and enriching environment.



Checklist for Responsible Pet Parenting ✓

1. Understanding the Responsibility: ✓

- Commitment of Time and Energy
- Financial Obligations
- Emotional and Social Support

2. Choosing the Right Pet: ✓

- Considering Your Living Situation
- Matching with Your Resources and Lifestyle
- Researching Your Pet's Breed and Their Requirements

3. Providing a Safe Environment: ✓

- Creating a Comfortable Space
- Ensuring Mental Enrichment
- Providing Physical Enrichment

4. Basic Requirement: ✓

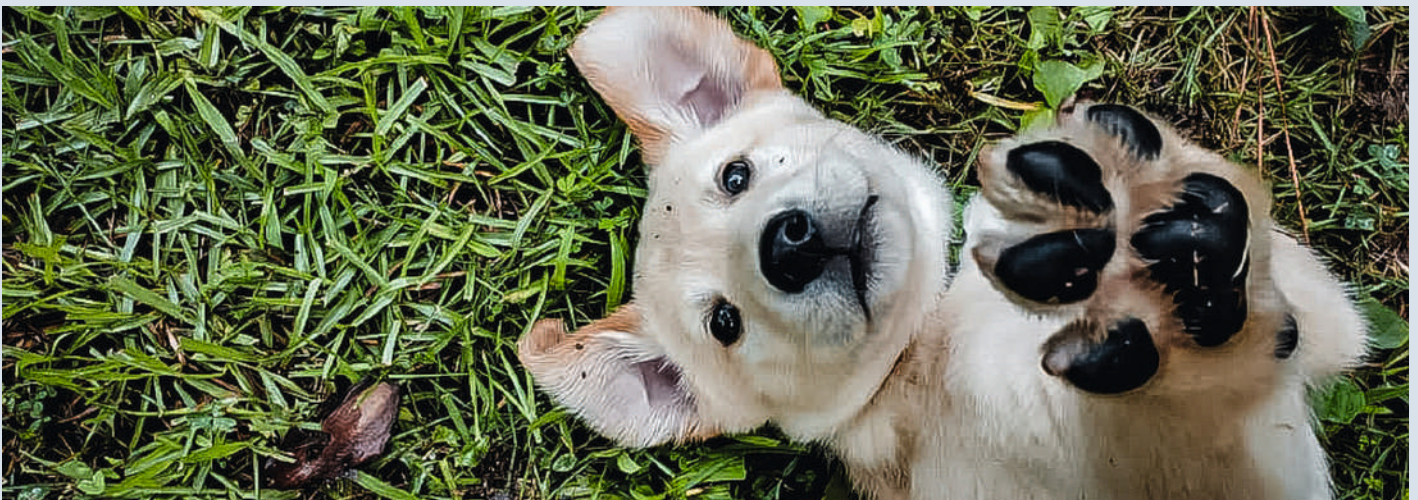
- Providing a Balanced Diet
- Establishing a Regular Routine
- Maintaining Hygiene

5. Nurturing a Loving and Bonding Relationship with Your Pet: ✓

- Building Trust and Mutual Respect
- Spending Quality Time Together
- Enhancing Communication and Understanding Your Pet's Needs

6. Veterinary Care: ✓

- Scheduling Preventive Care Procedures



CHAPTER 2

Lifecycle of a Dog

To understand the behaviour of dogs and to give them the best possible care, it is important to know and understand the stages of a dog's life – from being a newborn to their end.

The lifespan of a dog is divided into four stages:

(1) Puppy (2) Adolescent (3) Adulthood (4) Senior

The duration of these stages varies depending on factors such as breed, size, genetics, nutrition and care, among others. For example, the average length of these stages based on size is as follows:

Size	Puppy	Adolescent	Adulthood	Senior
Small	0 to 9-12 months	9-12 months to 2 years	2 to 8 years	8 years and older
Medium	0 to 12-15 months	12-15 months to 2.5 years	2.5 to 8 years	8 years and older
Large	0 to 12-18 months	12-18 months to 3 years	3 to 8 years	8 years and older
Giant	0 to 12-24 months	12-24 months to 4 years	4 to 7 years	7 years and older

2.1 Puppyhood:

After a gestation period of 63 days, a dog is born, embarking on their journey of life as a puppy. This marks the onset of puppyhood, which can be further divided into four substages as follows:

- **Newborn to 2 weeks:** This period is called the **Neonatal stage**. During this phase, the puppy's eyes and ears remain closed. While the senses of smell, taste and touch begin to develop, the puppy cannot regulate their body temperature. The puppy is entirely reliant on the mother for nourishment, warmth and stimulation, and should not be separated from her.
- **2 weeks to 4 weeks:** This stage is known as the **Transitional stage**. The growth rate is rapid during this period. The eyes and ears start to open, and by the end of the 4th or 5th week, the puppy develops clear eyesight. The puppy begins to regulate their body temperature, and teething commences (discussed in detail in the next section). Locomotion skills, including crawling, standing and walking, are developed. The puppy becomes aware of their surroundings and is influenced by the mother and fellow puppies. During this stage, the puppy starts wagging their tail, attempting to bark, and engaging in play with their fellow pups.

- **4 weeks to 12 weeks:** This stage, called the **Socialising stage**, involves the mother initiating the weaning process and introducing solid food. The puppy becomes curious, exploring their environment. By the 7th to 9th week, response to fear develops, and the developed senses further allow scent differentiation. Exposure to new and different situations, people, animals and environments is advised during this period. Training for behaviour and confidence is suitable during this time, aided by positive responses from pet parents. It is crucial to avoid any painful and frightening experience. Typically, the puppy is ready for adoption around eight weeks, with vaccination starting at 6 to 7 weeks. Veterinarian consultation is essential for vaccination, diet and parasite control.
- **3 to 6 months:** During this stage, puppies exhibit high energy levels that need to be properly channelled through appropriate training. Continuation of exploring new situations, encountering different people and interacting with other animals is crucial. This ongoing exposure aids in learning and refining their social skills. Pups also begin to explore their independence and sexual maturation initiates.

Dental Care

Dogs are prone to various dental problems. Therefore, puppyhood is the best time to initiate a regular dental routine for your dog. Train your puppy to become accustomed to brushing. Utilise a suitable canine brush and toothpaste for brushing your dog's teeth; avoid using human toothpaste. Chewing on crispy fruits and vegetables such as beetroots, carrots and celery can help reduce plaque buildup.



Teething

Teething in dogs is similar to humans. It's the process of a dog's journey from having no teeth to developing 42 adult teeth.

- **Newborn to 2 weeks:** The puppy is born without teeth. However, teeth begin to develop in the jaws. The puppy receives nutrition from the mother's milk. By the end of the 2nd week, the baby teeth start emerging.
- **2 weeks to 4 weeks:** Baby teeth, also known as deciduous teeth or milk teeth, start to emerge. The incisors emerge first, followed by premolars and canines. Puppies lack molar teeth. These teeth are razor-sharp and are sometimes referred to as needle teeth.
- **5 weeks to 6 weeks:** By this time, all the deciduous teeth should have emerged. A puppy has a total of 28 teeth at this age. Weaning begins during this period, so it's advisable to provide moist and soft puppy food.
- **12 weeks to 16 weeks:** This stage can be uncomfortable and painful as the deciduous teeth begin to fall out, being replaced by permanent teeth. Occasionally, pet parents may find a tooth-like object on the floor, which the puppy often swallows harmlessly. Some blood on the floor is also normal. At this age, puppies have a strong urge to chew, and it's recommended to use chew toys approved by the vet.
- **6 months and older:** By this time, the puppy will have 42 permanent teeth. All baby teeth should have fallen out by now. If any baby teeth remain, consulting the vet is advisable to prevent discomfort during chewing or potential misalignment of the teeth.

Symptoms of teething:

- Constant Chewing
- Excessive Drooling (sometimes with blood in saliva)
- Swollen Gums
- Whimpering while chewing

Solutions:

- **Teething Chew Toys:** There are various chew toys available on the market. Consult your vet to find the best option for your puppy to satisfy their chewing instinct.
- **Obedience Training:** Begin training your puppy to cease nipping at your feet, chewing furniture, or any undesirable items. Always use reward-based training and never use methods or equipment that may cause pain or fear.
- **Puppy-Proof Your Home:** Keep items such as wires, children's toys and newspapers out of your puppy's reach. Certain plants are harmful to dogs, like daffodils, lilies and tulips; avoid them. Foods like raisins, chocolate, grapes and onions are also unsafe for dogs.

Recommended Toys and Treats for Teething Puppies

Teething puppies love to chew, and it's crucial to provide them with safe and appropriate toys and treats that will soothe their sore gums and encourage healthy chewing habits. Here are some recommended options:

- **Safe Chew Toys for Puppies** - Look for chew toys specifically designed for puppies, made of softer materials like rubber or nylon. Avoid toys that are too hard or small, as they can pose choking hazards or dental problems. Some popular options include KONG toys, Nylabones and rope toys.
- **Natural Teething Remedies for Puppies** - For a natural approach, frozen carrots can offer relief for teething puppies. Make sure to supervise your pup while they're chewing to prevent choking or swallowing large pieces.
- **Treats to Encourage Healthy Chewing Habits** - Consider using treats that encourage good chewing habits, such as dental chews. These can help remove plaque and tartar buildup while satisfying your puppy's desire to chew. Keep in mind that dental chews may contain a significant amount of fat, so it's best not to overdo it. One chew a day is likely sufficient.

Potential Complications if Teething is Not Managed

Neglecting your puppy's teething stage can result in various problems, both dental and behavioural. If your puppy lacks appropriate chew toys and treats, they may resort to chewing on inappropriate items such as furniture or shoes. This can lead to tooth fractures, gum damage and expensive dental procedures.

Puppies that don't receive proper teething care might become more aggressive or anxious due to the discomfort they're experiencing. They may also lose interest in play or training.

Neglecting your puppy's teething stage can lead to long-term dental problems like periodontal disease, causing pain, tooth loss and other health issues. Additionally, it can set a negative precedent for your puppy's overall oral health as they mature.



2.2 Adolescent:

This stage is also known as the teenage stage, which typically begins between 6 to 18 months and persists until around 18-24 months in smaller dogs and up to 36 months in larger dogs. Fur shedding commonly occurs as they enter this stage. Hormonal changes induce physical and behavioural shifts, increased independence, boundary testing and occasional mood swings. During this phase, teenage dogs might disregard voice cues and training, displaying picky or moody behaviour. Similar to young teenagers, dogs can become bored quickly, demanding substantial activity and stimulation. Pet parents are advised to maintain patience and consistent training even when the dog's response is not immediate.

The adolescent dogs start learning about their environment through scents and begin exploring the neighbourhood, discovering other dogs' locations and identifying optimal spots for urination. Between the 12th and 18th month, dogs develop the temperament and personality they will carry into adulthood.

Neutering (removal of male testicles) or spaying (removal of female ovaries and uterus) can be done starting at 6 months of age. It's crucial to consult your vet to determine the most suitable timing for your individual pet. Unneutered male dogs manifest signs of puberty, urinating frequently and extensively sniffing urine to locate female mates. Females experience the oestrous cycle, or heat cycle, marked by a swollen, reddened vulva and a red-coloured discharge lasting 7-10 days, occurring twice a year. Interest in male dogs heightens during this time. Female dogs typically exhibit healthy sexual maturity following their second heat cycle.

2.3 Adulthood:

2 to 7 years is the adulthood of a dog, as they reach their physical and sexual maturity. They are now in their adult size and weight. Small dogs reach adulthood earlier than larger dogs. The dog continues to grow mentally and physically to refine their behaviour and personality. They get settled into their temperament and adult behaviour, and require regular exercise and a healthy diet. The dog becomes calm, emotionally stable and responds to the training. They have controlled sexual interest and comparatively less than the adolescent dog.



2.4 Senior:

This stage begins around the age of 6 to 10 years. Dogs enter a phase of ageing. It is very important to regularly monitor your ageing dog and schedule routine vet check-ups. Some issues like joint pain can make them seem slower or sleepier but can be treated. Don't accept these changes; discuss them with your vet if you notice any health or behavioural changes. Appetite reduction may occur, and due to a slowed metabolism, dietary adjustments are recommended to maintain a healthy digestive system. Their walk becomes slower and shorter, while the greying of facial hairs becomes visible. Age-related health issues such as joint pain, dental problems, hearing and vision loss and kidney disorders may arise. It is advised to foster regular healthy habits in dogs during this stage, ensuring a prolonged and comfortable life with a hopefully painless conclusion.

Once dogs surpass their typical lifespan and continue to live, they enter the 'geriatric stage,' which may necessitate medical care.

NOTE:

1. Different dog breeds experience distinct durations within each stage.
2. The weeks mentioned in the above section represent average ages.
3. A dog's lifespan depends on factors such as size, breed, genetics and care provided.

2.5 Frequently Asked Questions

1. What Are Some Signs That My Puppy Is Teething?

Some signs that your puppy may be teething include increased chewing, drooling, and irritability. You may also notice that your puppy's gums are swollen or bleeding, or that they are losing baby teeth.

2. Can I Give My Puppy Human Teething Pain Relief Medication?

No, you should never give your puppy human medication without consulting a veterinarian. Many human pain relief medications, such as aspirin and ibuprofen, can be toxic to dogs.

3. How Can I Encourage My Puppy to Chew on Safe Items?

Encouraging your puppy to chew on safe items, such as chew toys, is important for their oral health and can also help alleviate teething discomfort. You can make these items more appealing by stuffing them with treats.

4. How Long Does the Teething Stage Last?

The teething stage typically lasts from three to six months, depending on the breed and individual puppy. By six months of age, most puppies have all of their adult teeth.

CHAPTER 3

General Needs and Requirements

Similar post - Diet , Vaccination , Parasite control , Exercise and socialisation , Enrichment (toy illustration) , Environment (Dog bed illustration)

3.1 Environment

Ensuring the overall mental and physical health of your pet requires creating and maintaining a suitable environment.

Consider the following points to provide a proper environment for your animal companion:

- **Space:** Your pet needs sufficient space to exhibit their natural behaviour. Excessive confinement, such as caging or leashing, can lead to severe mental and physical health issues. The appropriate amount of space for your pet depends on their breed.
- **Safety:** Keep dangerous objects away from your pet's reach. Common household items like sharp knives, broken glass, cleaning chemicals, indoor plants, etc., can be harmful or even fatal to your pet.
- **Comfort:** You may have noticed German Shepherds with bent legs or walking difficulties. This can be because of a condition called osteoarthritis or other problems with their joints and nerves. Keeping them on hard or slippery floors can make this issue worse. When choosing flooring or a bed for your dog, refer to the table below for guidance:

TYPE OF BREED	EXAMPLES	TYPE OF BED REQUIRED
Small or Toy Breeds	Chihuahuas, Pomeranians	Cosy and secure feeling bed
Medium to Large Breeds	Shepherds, Labradors	Orthopaedic bed
Heavy or Giant Breeds	Great Danes, Mastiffs	Memory foam or dense foam bed
Long-haired Breeds	Shih Tzus, Afghan Hounds	Elevated bed, bed with breathable mesh
Brachycephalic Breeds	Bulldogs, pugs	Bed with memory foam and raised edges
Outdoor or Active Breeds	Border Collies, Australian Shepherds	Portable and waterproof beds

- **Temperature and Humidity:** The suitable temperature and humidity level for your pet vary based on their breed. You must be aware of your pet's breed-specific temperature and humidity requirements. Any excessive panting or shivering should not be ignored. Exercising your dog at the hottest times of the day should be avoided and they should always have fresh water and shade available. Remember, all dogs are susceptible to heat stroke especially very young, old, large or flat faced breeds.
- **Lighting:** Dogs love to be in a naturally lit area for some time. Make sure your pet has access to natural light. You may use artificial lights to simulate natural light if your pet's room has no access to it. It's important to note that they also need darkness at night time to sleep well.
- **Cleanliness:** Regularly cleaning your pet's living area automatically reduces the chances of health issues. Your pet must have clean bedding, litter boxes, and clean food and water bowls.

Remember:

- Adoption of pets is a more compassionate choice.
- Avoid buying a puppy less than 10 weeks old in case you wish to purchase them
- What a mother can teach her pup, we can't.
- The immunity of young puppies will always be lower.
- It's unethical to separate puppies from their mother at a young age.

3.2 Confinement

Confinement for your pet should only be chosen if it's absolutely necessary, and you must ensure that your pet does not harm themselves during this time. While confining your pet, consider the following points to prevent unnecessary distress due to confinement:

- **Size of the Cage:** While choosing a crate for your pet, measure your pet's length (from nose to tail) and height (from floor to head) and chose a crate of length at least twice the length of your pet, width at least 1.5 times the length of pet and height at least 6 inches more than the height of your pet so that your pet can move inside it comfortably. Caging any animal in a small crate which restricts reasonable movements is punishable under the PCA Act (1960).
- **Length and weight of the Leash:** Tying a pet (or any animal) with a leash that is short or excessively heavy is also punishable under the PCA Act, 1960. The leash should be at least 1.5 metres in length and very lightweight.
- **Food, Water and Hygiene:** Your pet should have access to food and fresh water even during confinement. Proper hygiene must be maintained throughout and your pet must not be forced to urinate or defecate while being confined.
- **Duration of Confinement:** The total duration of confinement should not exceed 6 hours a day, and it should not be continued for more than 2 hours at a time. Your pet must be given a chance to attend to natural needs if necessary.
- **Safety and Comfort:** During confinement, ensure your pet doesn't injure themselves on the crate walls or leash. They should feel physically and mentally comfortable during confinement. Provide a smooth base inside the crate for sitting or sleeping. While tied up, they should have an accessible place to sit or sleep comfortably.

3.3 Enrichment

To prevent your pet from experiencing boredom and to ensure their overall physical and mental well-being, consider the following enrichment activities:



- **Toys and Play:** While your pet will certainly enjoy toys like puzzle feeders, interactive toys, and chew toys, nothing can compare to the joy they feel while playing and spending time with their human companions. It is advisable to choose toys that are appropriately sized and weighted for your pet, and dedicating quality time with your furry friend is highly recommended. You can also use household items to enrich your pet's environment; for example, you can hide treats in newspaper balls.
- **Environmental Stimulation:** Providing opportunities for your pet to explore and interact with their surroundings is one of the five freedoms (Read Section 1.3) granted to animals in India, which includes the freedom to exhibit normal patterns of behaviour. This not only prevents boredom but also reduces mental stress for your pet.
- **Consider Having Two Dogs:** Having more than one pet in your home may alleviate boredom in your pets. This arrangement provides companionship, playfulness, necessary exercise, and the opportunity for them to learn from each other. It also simplifies the socialisation process for the pet parents. Remember, not all dogs prefer another dog at home for companionship.



Tips and Tricks:

- Regularly rotate your pet's toys.
- Observe your pet's behaviour and preferences.
- You can use puzzle feeders and food dispensing toys to make mealtime engaging.
- Try adding more interactive toys to your pet's toys collection.

3.4 Socialisation

Socialising your pets not only makes them well-behaved but also creates a sense of comfort for their human parents, neighbours and children. Pets that are deprived of socialisation are more likely to develop behavioural issues in the future. The following points will help you effectively socialise your pet:

- **Early Socialisation:** Socialising pets becomes much easier and enjoyable for both the pet and their parents when started at a young age. Young dogs can easily become familiar with different animals and humans. Encourage your dog to interact with other dogs. If your dog is familiar with community dogs, ensure those dogs are vaccinated to prevent communicable diseases.
- **Exposure to New Experiences:** To socialise your pet effectively, expose them to new environmental situations, including different sounds and smells. Help your pet become comfortable and friendly towards other animals and humans gradually and positively.
- **Positive Reinforcement:** Consider rewarding your pet for positive behaviour during socialisation. Avoid any form of harsh training, as it's not only discouraged but also illegal under Indian law. For instance, carrying a stick while going for a walk serves no meaningful purpose.



3.5 Nutrition

Proper nutrition keeps your pet healthy and energetic while playing an important role in increasing their life span. The following points can guide you in providing balanced nutrition for your pet:

- **Breed-Specific Diet:** Consult a veterinarian to create a diet chart tailored to your pet's age and breed. Be aware that certain common human foods like milk, onions, grapes, chocolates, tea and coffee are harmful to dogs. Always keep in mind what should not be given to your pet. If they accidentally consume any prohibited food items, seek immediate advice from a veterinarian.
- **Avoid overfeeding and underfeeding:** Your pet's diet should not only be nutritionally balanced but also appropriately portioned. Overfeeding can lead to issues like diarrhoea, lethargy, obesity, diabetes and various other health risks. On the other hand, underfeeding can result in problems such as weight loss, fatigue, weakened immune system, mental stress and anaemia.
- **Fresh Water:** Provide your pet with fresh water in a clean bowl. Regularly change the water and clean the bowl as needed.
- **Requirement of Nutrients:** Dogs should be fed a balanced diet to support proper growth, strong immune function, and optimal energy levels. A balanced diet also helps prevent nutritional deficiencies and related health issues, promoting a longer and healthier life for your canine companion.

3.6 Health

To maintain the health of your pet following points need to be taken into consideration:

- **Veterinary Care:** Prevention is better than cure. By scheduling regular check-ups with a veterinarian you can prevent future health issues in your companion animal. You must complete the recommended doses of vaccinations and dewormers to prevent your pet from deadly viral and parasitic infections. Additionally, be attentive to any behavioural changes. Regularly observe for sudden changes in appetite, urine and stool habits, as well as aggression. If any of these issues arise, visit a veterinarian promptly.
- **Exercise and Physical Activity:** Physical exercise boosts your pet's cardiovascular health and combats boredom. Tailor the level of physical activities to your pet's breed requirements to ensure they stay engaged and active.
- **Grooming and Hygiene:** Keeping your pet's coat clean helps prevent issues like mites and ticks. Regularly check their ears and clean their teeth to maintain proper hygiene and oral health.



When to visit a Vet?

If your pet is exhibiting any of the following symptoms, take them to the vet as soon as possible:

- Digestive disorders (Vomiting or diarrhoea)
- Loss of appetite or refusal to eat
- Excessive water consumption
- Change in urine or stool patterns
- Breathing difficulties
- Persistent coughing
- Trouble walking or moving
- Dullness or lethargy
- Excessive salivation/drooling
- External injuries, wounds or swellings
- Skin, ear, or eye issues



How to Select a Vet?

While choosing a vet, consider the following factors:

- Experience
- Qualifications
- Clinic facilities
- Distance between your home and the clinic

It's also important to differentiate between professionals in the veterinary field:

1. **Veterinarian:** Licensed with a degree such as **Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM)** or **Veterinary Medical Doctor (VMD)**. Their training focuses on diagnosing and treating diseases, performing surgeries, and prescribing medications for animals.
2. **Para-Veterinarian:** Trained to assist veterinarians in animal care and treatment. They can provide nursing, conduct laboratory tests, assist in surgeries, and administer medications.
3. **Pharmacists:** Specialised in medications, but are not trained or licensed for diagnosing or treating animal diseases.
4. **Livestock Diploma Holder:** Licensed with a diploma in Livestock Management and Husbandry, not specialised in treating companion animals like dogs and cats. Their training centres on breeding and caring for livestock such as cows, buffaloes and horses.

3.7 Walk

Most dogs love their walk and eagerly await it all day. The following points highlight the importance of walks for your dogs:

- Provides physical exercise and mental stimulation
- Helps to release energy
- Improves overall health and well-being
- Enhances pet-parent bonding
- Offers healthy and safe opportunities to explore the environment

It's important to note that some dogs may not find walking enjoyable due to reasons like anxiety, fear, or joint pain, which should be addressed. Dog parents should never force their pets to go on walks. If your pet doesn't seem to enjoy walks, consult your vet as it's important to ensure they're not experiencing pain or a behavioural issue that needs attention.

Responsibility matters: Ensure that walking your pet does not disrupt anyone in your community, and remember that maintaining hygiene during walks is also your duty. Be responsible by promptly cleaning up your pet's waste if they happen to poop while on a walk.

NOTE

Along with all the points mentioned above, strive to build a healthy relationship with your pet. This will help meet their general needs and create an environment in which they feel happy, secure and comfortable in your home.



CHAPTER 4

Caring for Your Dog

Isn't it a wiser choice to invest in your pet's well-being through preventive care? This way, you can avoid the stress of high medical costs and the challenge of treating your pet's discomfort down the line.

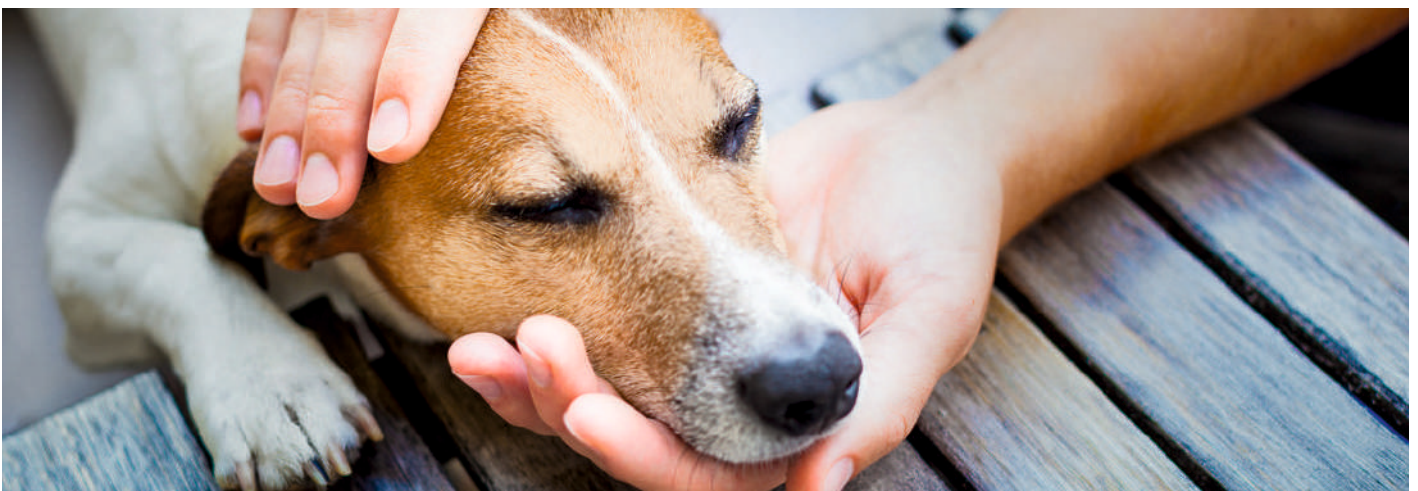
Prioritising preventive care means safeguarding your pet's health and preventing potential issues. Regular check-ups, vaccinations and a balanced diet are simple steps to ensure your furry companion's ongoing happiness and vitality.

On the other hand, ignoring preventive care might result in serious health complications that demand costly treatments and cause unnecessary suffering for your pet. Beyond the emotional toll, it could also strain your finances and family dynamics.

4.1 Grooming

Pets with fluffy coats can sometimes host a large number of ticks, especially in the rainy season. However, your vet can provide medication to prevent or treat this issue. Grooming them is an important aspect of pet care that should never be underestimated. Regular grooming not only keeps your pet looking and smelling pleasant, but it also plays a pivotal role in maintaining their overall health and well-being. It helps prevent a variety of diseases and health issues that can impact your pet. For instance, routine brushing and bathing can prevent skin infections, hot spots and other skin irritations. It also aids in preventing the accumulation of dirt, debris, and parasites like fleas and ticks, which can lead to an array of health problems.

Beyond preventing health issues, grooming your pet can also facilitate the early detection of potential health problems. While grooming, you can inspect for any lumps, bumps, or other anomalies that might signal an underlying health concern. This early detection can enhance your pet's chances of a successful recovery.



Say No to Unethical and Harmful Grooming

It's important to avoid grooming practices that care more about looks than your dog's health and happiness. Things like dyeing fur, cutting ears and tails, using tight accessories, or unnecessary haircuts can hurt your dog, both physically and mentally. Their well-being should be the top priority, ahead of any style choices.

Empathise with Your Pet

As dog parents, it's very important to have empathy for your companion animals. Their safety and comfort should always come before your desires and expectations. Always consider what's best for them, even if it's not what you want.



4.2 Avoid Parasitic Infestation

Many external parasites (ectoparasites) can significantly impact a dog's skin and coat. These parasites may be of animal origin (such as fleas, ticks, lice and mites) or fungal origin (like ringworm and mange).

External parasitic infestations primarily affect the skin and coat, often causing eczema, itching, or substantial hair loss. Internal endoparasite infestations are frequently transmitted by fleas, ticks or mosquitoes. These infestations can seriously compromise a dog's health and even result in contagious infectious diseases, some of which can now be prevented through vaccination. Remaining vigilant and practising good daily hygiene can go a long way in preventing most of these potentially fatal threats to a dog's well-being.

Ensuring Successful Flea Control: Methods and Considerations

To effectively combat parasites, pet parents must understand their developmental stages to intervene appropriately.

Larvae tend to hide in dark areas, such as under rugs, cushions, or skirting, as well as between floorboards and in nooks and crannies. After one or two weeks, the larva transforms into a cocoon, highly resistant to flea treatments, capable of surviving for up to five months. The presence of animals or humans triggers adult fleas' emergence from these cocoons. In homes inhabited for several months, a sudden hatch of numerous cocoons can lead to a rapid flea infestation.

Adult fleas jump onto dogs and feed on their blood. Female fleas, particularly voracious, can consume up to fifteen times their body weight in blood, with seventy females ingesting a millilitre of blood per day. During feeding, a female flea could excrete waste, resulting in tiny black pellets within the coat of your dog, which turn deep red upon becoming wet.

Apart from blood consumption, fleas commonly provoke allergies and can transmit flatworms to dogs. Although various flea treatments for pets, such as collars, sprays and powders, can reduce the flea population, they usually cannot eliminate all of them due to the lingering presence of fleas in the environment. Typically, two treatments are recommended.

The first treatment's purpose involves using an insecticide to eliminate all adult fleas on dogs within the treated area. Antiparasitic sprays (pyrethroids) or spot-on applications, where concentrated spray diffuses throughout the animal's body, killing fleas as they feed, are common approaches. This treatment should be repeated monthly. Alternatively, another method aims to sterilise fleas during feeding, achieved by giving the dog a monthly pill.

The second treatment targets flea elimination (using insecticides) or inhibiting their development (using insect growth regulators, or IGRs) in the environment. Insect growth regulators have the advantage of being safe for domestic animals and humans. Before this treatment, thorough dusting and cleaning of the entire area are necessary, as vacuum cleaners and cupboards can harbour fleas. Surfaces are then treated with insecticide and/or insect growth regulators. In certain cases, treating the garden, particularly shaded spots where pets rest might be required. The products used should be UV-resistant. Various effective insecticides and insect growth regulators are available, each with distinct advantages and limitations. The success of these treatments depends on their application methods and frequency of use.

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Removing Ticks

If your dog isn't heavily infested with ticks, you can remove them individually using tweezers. It's also recommended to remove the tick by gently twisting it clockwise several times and then gently pulling it out. This method ensures the complete removal of the tick, including its mouthparts. Alternatively, a specially designed small hook, created by a veterinarian, can be used to extract ticks easily without breaking off their mouthparts. It's crucial to remove the mouthpart completely to prevent the formation of abscesses at the attachment site.

For severe tick infestations, it's crucial to consult a vet. They may recommend bathing the dog with pyrethroid or amitraz, which are effective at eliminating ticks. However, please note that these treatments can be highly toxic, and professional guidance is essential.

To prevent infestations, your vet may advise you to apply the prescribed insecticide powder to the floor and walls. Nowadays, there are vaccines and various medications available on the market to prevent tick infestations. Tick infestations can lead to tick fever, which can be fatal, so it's better to take preventive measures rather than regretting the consequences later.



4.3 Deworming

Deworming is a crucial aspect of pet care that should not be overlooked. It involves the administration of medication to eliminate internal parasites such as worms, which can cause serious health problems in pets. These parasites can affect the digestive system, respiratory system, and even the heart, leading to severe illness or death.

Regular deworming is essential to maintain the health and well-being of pets. It helps to prevent the spread of parasites to other animals and humans, as some worms can be transmitted to humans. Deworming also improves the overall quality of life for pets by reducing discomfort and preventing complications.

It is recommended that pets be dewormed at least every three to six months, depending on their age, lifestyle and health status. Puppies should be dewormed more frequently, as they are more susceptible to parasites. Puppies can be dewormed as they turn two weeks old, as a preventive measure. A multipurpose vermifuge is used, usually consisting of a mixture of several anthelmintics providing a broad spectrum of protection.

Stool analysis can also reveal worm eggs, and the worm can then be more specifically targeted by choosing the best anthelmintic for the type of worm observed. It is also important to consult with a veterinarian to determine the appropriate deworming schedule and medication for your pet.

4.4 Vaccination

Vaccinations help in preventing life-threatening contagious diseases in dogs. Core vaccines include protection against Canine Parvovirus, Canine Distemper, Hepatitis, Rabies, and Leptospirosis. It is important to note that some vaccines are not effective unless administered at the proper time according to the strict schedule prescribed by the veterinarian.

Recommendations:

- Administering vaccines to dogs that are in poor overall health, especially those with a significant infestation of external or internal parasites, is not recommended. It is important to prioritise parasite treatment for the dog before considering vaccination.
- If you're unable to begin the vaccination program when the dog is between 7-9 weeks old for any reason, start it as soon as possible, regardless of the current age of the dog.
- Always follow your veterinary instructions.

4.5 Preventive Care

Diseases like cancer are devastating and can severely impact dogs, like any other animal. Male pets may face prostate tumours and testicular cancer, while females are susceptible to mammary tumours, ovarian cancer and other serious reproductive diseases such as pyometra and transmissible venereal tumor (TVT). Nonetheless, there is a preventive measure to avert such circumstances - early-age neutering of your pet.

Unfortunately, several pet parents hesitate to spay or neuter their pets due to several misconceptions and desires. Some of them are listed below:

1. Their pets will become overweight and sluggish post-sterilisation. However, this isn't accurate. Pets gain excess weight only if they're overfed and lack exercise.
2. Some pet parents fear that their pet's demeanour will change post-spaying or neutering. Actually, improvements can occur after the procedure. Sexually motivated behaviours are likely to improve, and wandering tendencies decrease. Moreover, spraying behaviour, often used to mark territory, lessens or halts after sterilisation.
3. 'Breeding will enhance my pet's health' - this is a common misconception. In reality, sterilisation procedures like spaying and neutering prevent fatal diseases and enhance overall health.
4. Numerous pet parents worry about the risks of anaesthesia. While minimal inherent risk exists, veterinarians use safe anaesthetics. Many vets also use monitoring equipment to track heart and respiratory rates during surgery, ensuring the patient's well-being under anaesthesia. The significant medical benefits of spaying or neutering outweigh the slight anaesthesia-related risk. It's always better to discuss any concerns about this aspect with your veterinarian.
5. Some pet parents also choose to breed their pets and offer their puppies for sale. However, considering the ethical side, separating puppies from their mothers solely for financial gain warrants consideration. Plus, the future of these puppies remains uncertain. The costs of raising a litter - stud fees, vaccinations, healthcare, and quality food - can be substantial.



4.6 Benefits of Spaying and Neutering for Pet Health and Well-being

Consult with your veterinarian to determine the best timing for neutering your dog, as it can vary based on factors such as the dog's breed, size, gender, and temperament. Spaying and neutering your pets not only prevents unwanted litter but also brings about many health advantages for both male and female animals.

For males, neutering diminishes the risk of prostatic disease, hernias, and testicular cancer. Females that are spayed have a notably reduced risk of mammary cancer, particularly if the procedure is conducted before their first heat cycle. Spaying also eradicates the threat of pyometra, a potentially fatal uterine infection common in non-spayed animals. It also eliminates the heat cycle, behavioural changes, messy spotting and the attraction of males to your property.

Four Strong Reasons to Choose Spaying or Neutering for Your Pet:

1. Spaying or neutering enhances your pet's chances of a longer, healthier life.
2. A sterilised dog is a more harmonious family pet.
3. Unwanted pregnancies are something no family with a pet wants to deal with.
4. Spaying leads to a cleaner environment for your female dog and your home.

4.7 Frequently Asked Questions

1. Should I take any special precautions before vaccination?

The dog to be vaccinated should be in the best possible physical health. Make sure to inform your vet of any problems the dog has had within the last twelve months. Vaccination is a treatment that should be administered only to patients in good health, so a thorough physical examination is justified, including checks for fever, anorexia, weakness and anaemia. Early tick fever can be diagnosed through blood tests.

2. How long does it take for the vaccine to become effective?

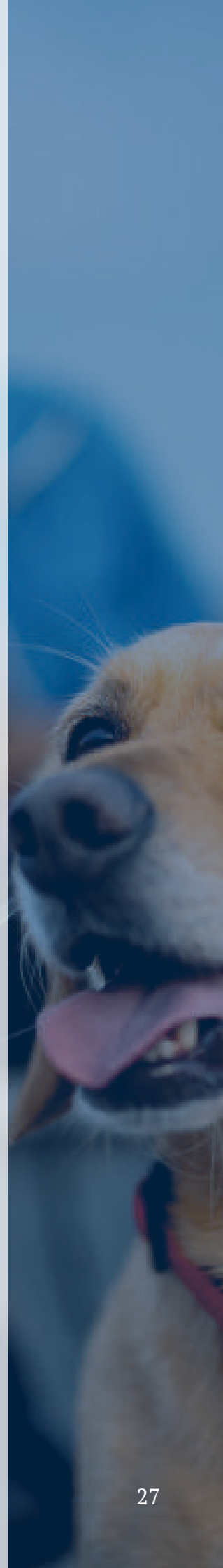
The initial vaccine requires 2-3 doses to develop complete immunity in the body against the diseases. Some vaccines like Rabies only require one dose per year.

3. How old must the dog be to receive the vaccine?

Puppies should be at least 45 days old for a multi-disease vaccine and three months old for a rabies vaccine. Immunological maturity is not complete until above five months of age.

4. Should the vaccination be given at a certain time of the year?

Your vet should be aware and knowledgeable about the regional epidemiology of the diseases and can advise you on this matter better.



5. Does the vaccine have any side effects?

In rare cases, there may be temporary fatigue or slight swelling at the injection site, which should disappear within a few days. In the majority of cases, vaccination is well tolerated by dogs.

6. Can the babesiosis vaccine cause the disease in my dog?

This is not possible since the vaccine is made from dead proteins of the parasite's membrane. However, in some cases, disease symptoms may flare up within a few days of the vaccination, which is not a cause for concern.

7. My dog has a babesiosis infection, can I get them vaccinated?

Vaccination is not recommended in such cases.

8. Why is the Rabies Vaccine important?

Rabies is a fatal disease not only for animals but also for humans. Once symptoms arise, it is 100% fatal, but fortunately, it is 100% preventable. It's crucial to have your pet vaccinated every year.



CHAPTER 5

Choosing your pet wisely

When considering pet adoption, it's crucial to select a pet that suits your lifestyle, personality, and home environment. Assessing the time and energy you can dedicate to a pet is essential; some breeds like Border Collies require regular mental stimulation and exercise, while others are more independent. Bustling city life can cause stress and anxiety for certain animals. Researching each breed's temperament and needs will help you make an informed decision when choosing a new companion that fits your lifestyle perfectly!

5.1 Family Consent and Environment

When considering adopting a new pet, it's important to involve the entire family in the decision-making process. Bringing home an animal should be a commitment and responsibility shared among all members of the household. This means talking through factors such as cost, time, space, and any allergies or fears that may exist. It's crucial to ensure everyone is on board and aware of what keeping a pet entails before making a final decision.

Consider any other pets that may not get along well with a new dog. It's also important to think about your lifestyle and whether you have enough time to dedicate to a pet.

“By taking your time and involving everyone, you're more likely to find the perfect companion for lasting happiness.”

5.2 Experience

Before making any decisions, it's crucial to assess your animal-handling experience. Pet parenting requires responsible care, dedication and attention. Inexperienced individuals might become overwhelmed by the responsibilities. Before bringing a new dog into your life, consider factors like your living space, time availability and financial stability. Don't underestimate the responsibility – ensure you're prepared for the journey of being a pet parent.

If you are inexperienced with pets, opt for low-maintenance dogs until you gain more experience. If uncertain, consider adopting an older or rescue animal with training and socialisation.

5.3 Know about your Pet's Breed

To ensure the happiness and health of your dog, it is recommended that you familiarise yourself with your dog's breed. Several reasons emphasise why knowing your dog's breed is important:

- **Understanding Behaviours and Traits:** Many modern dog breeds have been selectively bred for specific tasks, resulting in changes in their behaviour over the years. However, certain core traits remain. Different dog breeds exhibit distinct characteristics, behaviours and needs. Familiarity with the breed can provide insights into energy levels, exercise requirements, temperament, trainability, and potential health issues. This knowledge can help you better understand your dog's specific needs.
- **Choosing the Right Fit:** If you're considering adopting a dog, being aware of their characteristics can help in selecting a dog that suits your lifestyle, living situation and preferences. Different dogs have varying exercise needs, grooming demands and compatibility with families, individuals, or particular environments.
- **Training and Socialisation:** Familiarity with the breed can help customise training techniques and socialisation strategies. Different breeds may respond better to specific training methods and require varying levels of mental stimulation. Understanding breed-specific traits can enable you to address behavioural tendencies or challenges more effectively.
- **Health and Care:** Certain dog breeds are more susceptible to specific health issues and genetic conditions. Knowing the breed can help you identify potential health risks and take appropriate preventive measures. It can also guide you in providing breed-specific care, including grooming routines, exercise plans and nutrition.
- **Connecting with Other Dog Parents:** Being knowledgeable about your dog's breed allows you to connect with other dog parents of the same breed, offering opportunities to exchange experiences, advice, and resources. Breed-specific communities and forums can serve as valuable sources of support, information, and social interaction for both you and your dog.

How to Identify Your Dog's Breed?

Determining a dog's breed can pose a challenge, particularly when dealing with a mixed breed or a dog of unknown parentage. However, various methods can help you identify the potential breed(s) of a dog:

- **Physical Appearance:** Carefully observe the dog's physical attributes, including size, body shape, coat type and colour patterns. Look for traits or features that align with specific breeds. Keep in mind that mixed-breed dogs may display a combination of traits from multiple breeds.
- **Breed Familiarity:** Familiarise yourself with various dog breeds and their characteristics. Study breed standards and compare them to the dog you're examining. Online resources, books and breed-specific websites can provide detailed descriptions and images of different breeds.
- **DNA Testing:** Utilise DNA testing kits designed for dogs to gain insights into the breed composition of a dog. These tests analyse the dog's DNA and cross-reference it with a database of established breeds to estimate the breed mix. Be aware that the accuracy of DNA tests may vary, particularly for mixed-breed dogs with complex ancestry.

- **Expert Consultation:** Seek advice from veterinarians, professional dog breeders, or trainers with expertise in breed identification. Their experience and knowledge may provide valuable insights.
- **Local Information:** If the dog was found or adopted locally, inquire about any available background information. Local shelters, rescue organisations, or community members might possess knowledge about the dog's breed or mix.

It's important to understand that identifying a dog's breed is not always straightforward, especially for mixed or crossbreed dogs. Many dogs exhibit characteristics of multiple breeds, making it challenging to determine their actual heritage. Embrace your dog's unique qualities regardless of their breed, as every dog is an individual with their personality and needs.

Classification of Dogs

Dogs can be categorised based on their weight, mainly into four groups:

(1) Small (2) Medium (3) Large (4) Giant

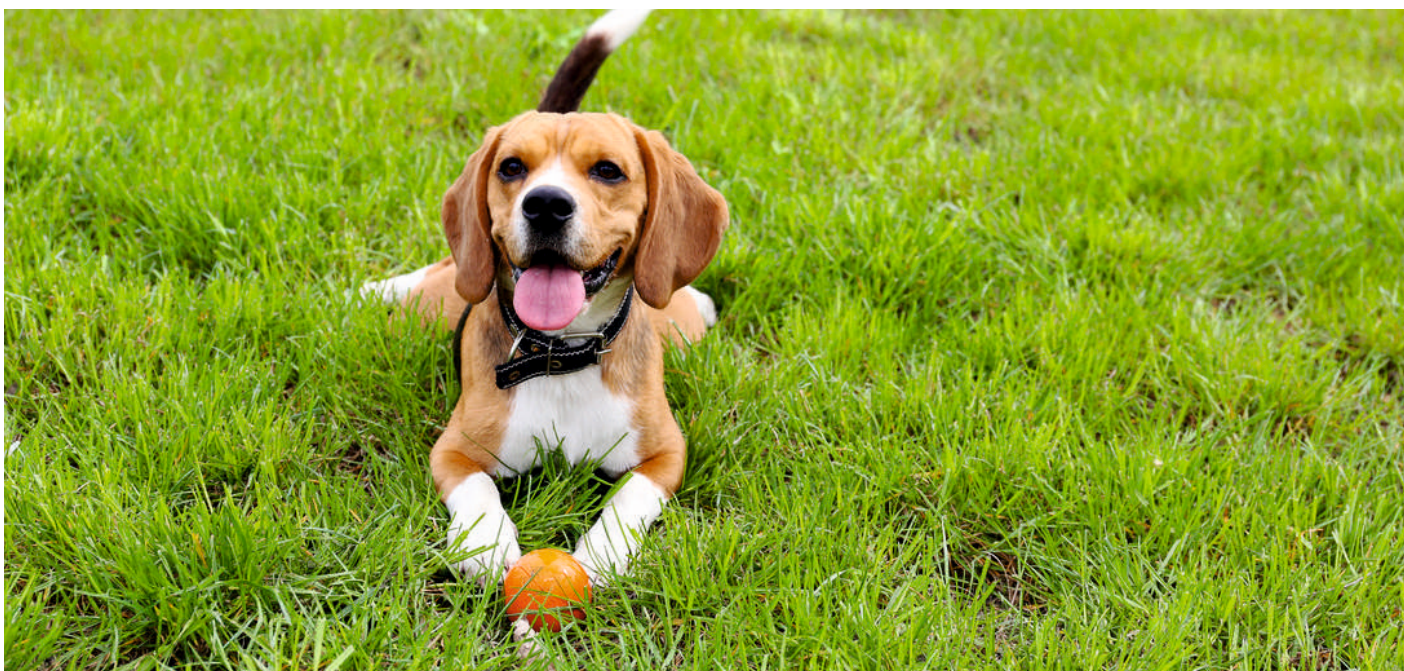
Small dogs can be classified into sub-categories like- Toy and Teacup Dogs.

- **Small Dogs: Weight - 2 to 22 pounds (1 to 10 Kg approx.)** - Small dogs are cherished for their miniature size and immense personalities. They possess high energy levels and are usually playful and affectionate. Due to their compact size, they are well-suited for apartments or smaller living spaces, requiring less room to move around. However, they may exhibit behavioural issues, often displaying bold and assertive tendencies. These issues often result from overhandling and the early appeasement or warning signals being ignored or dismissed. Thus, training is recommended. Small dogs are prone to health issues and hereditary problems can arise due to overbreeding and unethical breeding practices aimed solely at achieving a small size. Nonetheless, small dogs tend to enjoy longer lifespans, with healthy breeds averaging around 10 to 13 years, and sometimes even longer.
- **Toy Dogs: Weight - 5 to 12 pounds (2 to 6 Kg approx.)** - Toy dogs are even smaller in size and are well-suited for apartment living or smaller living spaces. They have lower exercise needs but are highly energetic and playful. They, too, have their share of health concerns, including mitral valve disease, luxating patellas, and dental issues (common in Chihuahuas). Toy breeds exhibit a diverse range of temperaments, often described as lively, alert, and sometimes assertive. They tend to form strong bonds with their human companions. Additionally, toy dogs tend to have long lifespans, often ranging between 12 and 18 years, depending on the specific breed.
- **Teacup Dogs: Weight - Less than 4 pounds (2 Kg or less)** - Teacup is not a recognised dog breed or size category by reputable kennel clubs or breed registries. This term is often used to describe extremely small dogs within existing toy or small breed categories. These dogs are usually bred to be smaller than the standard size of their respective breeds. However, breeding for extremely small sizes can come with health risks and ethical concerns. Due to their small size and bone structure, teacup dogs tend to be more delicate and fragile, making them susceptible to injuries and health issues. As a result, they may require extra care and attention. Their lifespans may also be shorter compared to larger dogs or even other dogs within their breed category.

- **Medium Dogs: Weight - 24 to 57 pounds (11 to 25 Kg approx.)** - Medium dogs are often intelligent, active and trainable. They can adapt well to various living environments, including apartments, as long as they receive adequate exercise and mental stimulation. Training is necessary for all breeds; otherwise, they can develop frustration. Medium dogs can have a wide range of temperaments, from laid-back and easygoing to more active and outgoing. The lifespan of medium dogs is generally shorter than that of smaller breeds. Their average lifespan is about 10-15 years.
- **Large Dogs: Weight - 59 to 99 pounds (26 to 45 Kg approx.)** - These dogs are large yet may not always be aware of their size. Some of them in this category will even try to get onto your lap and cuddle. Large dogs can display various temperaments, ranging from calm and gentle to more protective and assertive. Early socialisation and training are crucial for them. Large breeds may be prone to certain health issues such as joint problems, bloat and specific genetic conditions. Regular veterinary care and proper nutrition are vital to maintain their well-being. Their lifespan is around 8-12 years.
- **Giant or Extra Large Dogs: Weight - 100 pounds or more (46 Kg or more)** - Giant dogs make wonderful companions but they do have specific requirements, like training. They are calm, friendly and affectionate, making them well-suited for families and households with children. Due to their weight and size, they require large space to move around comfortably, making homes with larger yards ideal. Training these dogs is essential. Owing to their size, they are susceptible to various health issues such as hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, bloat (gastric torsion) and heart conditions. Ensuring regular veterinary care, proper nutrition and responsible breeding practices are crucial for their well-being. They have the shortest lifespan, typically about 6-10 years.

5.4 Home Location and Facilities

Consider your living situation carefully. Factors like space, noise, and access to green areas or dog parks can make all the difference in providing a healthy, happy home for your companion animal. For instance, if you reside in a small apartment without a garden, a large and active dog might not be suitable. On the contrary, homes with spacious gardens offer great play and exploration options.



5.5 Work & Lifestyle

Think about how your work and lifestyle might influence your ability to care for a pet. Do you have a job with long hours or frequent travel? Are you often away from home? These aspects are important when choosing a suitable pet dog. Evaluating your schedule and lifestyle before getting a pet ensures a joyful and healthy life for both you and your companion animal.

5.6 Resources

Thinking about adding a pet to your life is thrilling, yet before committing, it's crucial to assess the resources required for their lifelong care, which can only be well managed with a stable income. These resources include veterinary expenses, food, and other necessary supplies.

5.7 Children & the Elderly

Before introducing a pet to your home where children and senior citizens reside, several factors need consideration. Firstly, ensure the pet's suitability for both age groups; for instance, a large dog might pose challenges for the elderly or could unintentionally knock over a small child. Additionally, pets demand time and attention, which could be challenging while caring for kids or the elderly. Companion animals can bring immense joy and companionship to all generations, hence thoughtful planning is key to a rewarding family experience.

5.8 Evaluating Existing Pet Dynamics for a Smooth Transition

Before having a new pet, it's important to evaluate the dynamics among your existing pets. Introducing a new animal can be a major adjustment, especially if you already have a territorial pet. Assess the social nature of your pets and their ability to share space and resources. Remember that each animal has a unique personality, so even if one pet is laid-back and does not mind newcomers, bringing in a new animal could lead to tension. By considering your current pets' behaviour, you can ensure a smoother transition when bringing a new furry friend into your home.

5.9 Future plans and Commitment

If marriage is in your plans, ensure your partner is comfortable with having a pet. Likewise, if you are planning on relocating soon, it might not be fair to bring a new pet animal into your life only to uproot them shortly after. Consider your future commitments, as pets thrive on stability. Be mindful of how major life changes might impact their well-being. However, if you're confident your plans won't disrupt your ability to care for a pet long-term, you can proceed with having one, preferably through adoption.

WHY CHOOSE PET ADOPTION?

Opting to adopt a dog from a government shelter or a local organisation not only positively impacts the individual dog but also creates room for another needy and distressed dog. Through adoption, you're essentially saving the lives of two precious animals. Not only are you offering a caring home to a rescue pet, but the organisation also provides valuable guidance and support.

5.10 Exercise

Assess Your Readiness for Pet Parenting

1. Family Consent

- Yes/No

If your family is on board with having a pet, it's appropriate to explore the idea further. However, if there's uncertainty or hesitation, it's wise to reconsider or forego the idea of pet parenting. Remember, getting a pet is a lifelong commitment demanding time, effort and resources.

2. Your Experience Level

- Limited Experience
- Experienced
- First-Time Pet Parents

Thoroughly researching a pet's breed, needs, behaviour and potential health issues is crucial before bringing a companion animal home. For instance, while beagles might appear small and cute, they are energetic and require space, mental stimulation and enrichment.

3. Children in the house

- Toddler
- Young
- Teenager
- Adult

The genuine and selfless friendship that blossoms between a child and a dog is a beautiful sight to witness. Yet, before welcoming a dog into your home, it's vital to confirm that your child isn't allergic to dogs. Equally crucial is observing the dog's behaviour and temperament, ensuring they are both child-friendly and capable of safe interaction with your little one.

If you're considering getting a puppy for your child, understanding the puppy's teething stage is essential. Irrespective of the dog's breed, age, or gender, their behaviour should take precedence when introducing them to your child. Families with young children are encouraged to explore adopting adult or older dogs with a proven track record of being friendly with children.

By taking these measures and placing your child's safety at the forefront, you can foster a lasting and affectionate bond between your child and their beloved companion animal.

4. Home Environment

- Apartment Living
- House with Lawn
- House without Lawn

Choosing a pet requires thoughtful consideration of your home's location. Opting for a large or high-energy dog is discouraged in small apartments. If you're renting, ensure your landlord's approval beforehand. Plan prudently, keeping in mind the long-term commitment of pet parenthood, especially if relocation might arise in the next 10-15 years.

5. Home Facilities

- Private Garden
- Nearby Garden
- No Garden Access

Many dog breeds require garden access for optimal health. For example, German Shepherds kept on hard floors without garden access may develop leg issues or arthritis. Allowing dogs to walk and dig not only stimulates them mentally but also trims nails and promotes joint health. Ensuring garden access is vital for their overall well-being.

6. Family Dynamics

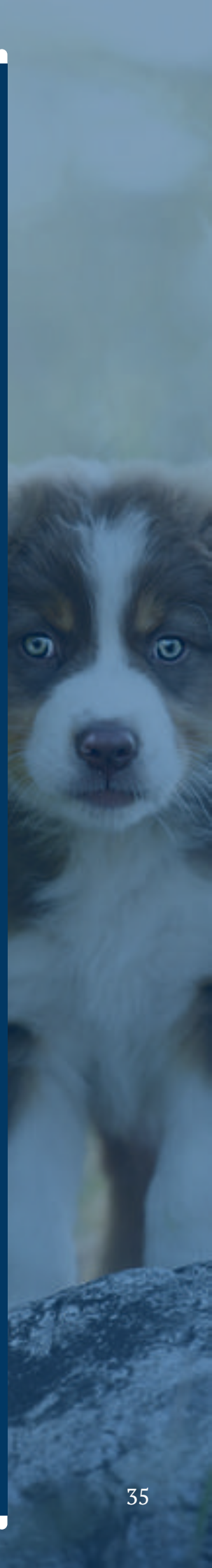
- Senior Citizens – Yes/No
- All Working – Yes/No

Large or giant breeds are not recommended in homes with senior citizens due to the potential for accidents during walks or playtime. Opting for a smaller, more manageable breed ensures their safety and companionship.

7. Existing Pet Compatibility

- Current Pet – Yes/No
- If Yes, Friendly with Other Animals – Yes/No/Maybe

Ensure your current pet is open to the idea. Find a new pet compatible with their personality. Try fostering to test compatibility. If adding another dog, consider sterilisation, especially if the genders differ.



8. Time Alone

- Brief Absence
- Short Duration
- Full Day Separation
- Undecided

If your schedule keeps you occupied and you can't spare enough time for your pet, it's important not to overlook their needs. Waiting alone all day can be distressing for dogs, as they thrive on companionship. However, dogs also need to experience positive separation from people during their socialisation period.

9. Financial Preparedness

- Yes/No

Adding a pet to your life can be expensive. These expenses include grooming, veterinary care and proper nutrition, among others. Being financially prepared is crucial for ensuring a loving and healthy life for your new companion.

Tip: Adopting a pet is not just a kind act but a prudent one too. In addition to offering a home to an animal, adopting often comes with discounts on various pet-related expenses.

10. Future Relocation Plans

- Yes/No

If you're thinking of relocating, have you thought about bringing your pet along? If not, do you have a contingency plan? It's important to address these considerations now to prevent future regrets.

Keep in mind that your pet sees you as family, so maintaining their trust is crucial.

11. Readiness for Commitment

- Yes/No

CHAPTER 6

Teaching Kids Dog Safety & First Aid Measures

Dogs make wonderful companions, but teaching children to respect and interact safely with dogs can prevent accidents, such as bites, from occurring.

6.1 Children and Pets: Teaching Safety and Respectful Behaviour



Teaching Children to Ask for Permission

Children should always ask for permission before approaching any other dog. Teach your child that all dogs are not the same, they are individuals and do have different behaviour same like your child and their friends.

Teach your children that sudden movements, loud noises, or rough play may scare or provoke a dog, causing them to bite. Help kids to learn how to read a dog's body language.

Teaching Children to Respect the Dog's Personal Space

Dogs have a personal space that they don't like to be invaded, just like humans. Pet parents must teach their children to respect their pet dog's space by avoiding hugging, kissing, or touching the dog's face or tail. They should also always supervise children and dogs to prevent accidents or bites, regardless of the dog's behaviour. Never leave them unattended.

Dogs need a secure space to feel safe. As pet parents, you can set up a cosy spot like a crate or bed where your dog can relax. Additionally, teach children to respect the dog's safe area. Dogs can also get agitated when disturbed while sleeping or eating. Adults with pet dogs should make sure to teach their kids to leave them alone during these times and not to stare or tease.

6.2 First Aid for Dog Bites

In case of a dog bite, knowing basic first aid and when to seek professional help is crucial. By preventing dog bites, a positive and healthy relationship between kids and pets is ensured.

Clean the Wound

If a dog bites your child, clean the wound with running water for 15 minutes and soap if available. Apply a topical antiseptic to prevent infection. Avoid using turmeric or chillies. Seek professional care and inform the doctor about your pet's vaccination history and any health issues.



Knowing When to Get a Tetanus Shot

If you haven't had a tetanus shot in the past 5 years and have been bitten by a dog, you may need one. Tetanus is a serious bacterial infection from puncture wounds, like dog bites. If unsure about your tetanus shots, consult a doctor at the earliest.



Seeking Medical Attention:

Urgent medical care might be necessary for a dog bite. Seek immediate attention if:

1. The bite is deep or the bleeding doesn't stop with pressure.
2. The bite is on the face, neck, or sensitive area.
3. Signs of infection are present.
4. The bite was from a wild or unvaccinated animal.
5. Breathing or swallowing difficulties arise.

Teaching children to prevent dog bites and respond to bites should not be avoided. Understand dog behaviour, teach safe approaches, and create a secure environment for kids and pets to avoid accidents.

Bite Severity Scale

The Dunbar Bite Scale is a system used to categorise the severity of dog bites based on their potential harm. It classifies dog bites into six categories, each indicating a different level of aggression and risk.



CHAPTER 7

Dog Behaviour, Training and Body Language

7.1 Normal Behaviour

Different breeds and species have distinct behaviour patterns. Understanding breed and species tendencies can help you anticipate behaviours and tailor training and care to meet your pet's needs.

Predatory Aggression

Predatory aggression is typically instigated by hunger, though it can manifest in dogs even when satiated. The behaviour involves clamping their jaws and vigorously shaking their heads. For instance, a dog might sneak into a henhouse to consume a chicken or kill a cat.



Territorial and Maternal Aggression

Territorial aggression triggers when the dog's territory or selected area is invaded. Maternal aggression in mother dogs exclusively surfaces in the presence of puppies, although even soft toys or slippers can provoke them.

Fear-Induced Aggression

Fear-induced aggression emerges when a dog feels cornered with no escape route. In such situations, the dog might display aggressive behaviours towards other dogs or humans in an attempt to gain space.

Aggressive behaviour is also very likely to occur when a dog feels that their access to a valued resource is threatened.



Marking Territory

Territorial marking is a universal canine behaviour, transcending breed, age and gender. It's a form of communication through urine or faeces deposits, using visual and smell signals through substances called pheromones. These substances convey information within the same species, often tied to sexual and territorial behaviours. Canine marking might be observed on strategic objects of social importance, such as table legs, bed legs, or entryways.

Sexual Behaviour: Puberty and Cycles

Male dog puberty varies by breed, generally occurring between seven and ten months. Female dogs reach sexual maturity, marked by their first heat cycle, usually between 6 to 12 months. Females typically experience two oestrous cycles each year, with a slightly higher frequency observed during autumn and spring.

Dogs go into 'heat' for approximately three weeks, and their reproductive cycle is made up of four different stages as mentioned in the table below:

Stage 1	Proestrus	9 days	Getting ready <ul style="list-style-type: none">• She is in heat• Ovaries are starting to mature and oestrogen level is on rise• Vulva lips swelled up• Not accepting males
Stage 2	Estrus	2-3 weeks	Action <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ovulation• Receptive to males• Oestrogen level drop and progesterone level increases• Vulva enlarge
Stage 3	Metestrus	60-90 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No more receptive to males• If pregnant – gestation period or pregnancy is of 2 months / 60 days
Stage 4	Anestrus	90-150 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No discharge

Feeding behaviour

Some dogs develop the habit of constantly seeking food throughout the day, but it's essential to maintain a balanced feeding routine for the well-being of your pet. The diet should align with the pet's requirements based on factors such as age, breed, size and physiological state (special needs or nursing). The dog's food bowl should consistently be placed in a designated spot, preferably in a different room from where humans eat. It's best to allow the dog to eat undisturbed and without being observed.

Coprophagy – Eating One’s Own Poop

Some puppies display the troublesome behaviour of consuming their own faeces, known as coprophagy. Generally, this behaviour should stop around the age of three to four months. If it continues, it's important to identify the underlying cause. Often, this behaviour arises from inadequate house training. For instance, if the pet parent sees the puppy eating their own faeces and rushes to clean it up, unintentionally a competition is created between the parent and the dog. This can lead the dog to consume their waste to prevent it from being taken away. This could also be related to the fear of being punished. Sometimes, undigested food in the faeces can also attract the dog to eat their excrement.

Understanding Why Your Dog Eats Their Poop

- Stress
- Anxiety
- Boredom
- Seeking attention
- Removing evidence out of fear of getting caught
- Imitating another dog
- Consider Medical Issues:

Don't overlook potential medical causes for coprophagia, such as diabetes, thyroid issues, parasites (worm overload), intestinal infections, over/underfeeding, or nutritional deficiencies.

How to Address It

Identify the Cause:

- Determine the underlying cause
- Consult a veterinarian or dog behaviourist
- Train your dog with the verbal cue 'leave it' using reward-based methods

House Training:

- House training or potty training involves establishing routines, using positive reinforcement, and supervising closely. Be patient, watch for signs and transition to outdoor-only breaks. Seek professional help if needed.

Avoid Punishment:

- Refrain from using punishment, as it is never the solution

Understanding Your Pet's Communication

Dogs communicate through body language, which includes facial expressions, tail wagging, ear position and posture. Understanding these cues can help pet parents determine if their dog is happy, scared, anxious, frustrated, or in pain.

Recognising Vocalisations and Their Meanings

Dogs also use vocalisations to communicate, such as barking, growling, whining and howling. Each sound carries a different meaning, and pet parents should be able to recognise their dog's vocalisations to understand their needs and emotions.



7.2 Behavioural Problems

Pet behavioural issues encompass abnormal or unwanted behaviours, spanning from excessive barking, destructiveness, aggression, and inappropriate elimination to separation anxiety and phobias. These concerns are frequent among pet parents. Whether you're a new or experienced pet parent, understanding how to assess your pet's behaviour is essential for identifying and addressing potential issues.

Such issues can stem from genetics, insufficient socialisation, negative early experiences and environmental factors. Inadequate exercise, limited socialisation and disruptions in routine can all impact pet behaviour. Additionally, underlying medical problems like pain or illness can influence behaviour. If you suspect any behavioural changes, promptly seek veterinary advice.

Why Understanding Your Pet's Behaviour is Important

Pets don't speak our language, and we don't speak theirs. But by paying attention to their behaviour, we can learn a lot about how they're feeling and what they need.

”

“Understanding your pet's behaviour allows you to better meet their needs, strengthen your bond with them, and detect any potential health or behavioural problems early on.”

”

Watching your pet's behaviour regularly can help you identify any changes early on, enabling you to address any potential problems before they escalate. Observing your pet's behaviour regularly can also give you a better understanding of their individual personality, enabling you to adapt your care to their unique needs.

What to Look for When Observing Your Pet's Behaviour

When observing your pet's behaviour, pay attention to their body language, vocalisations and overall demeanour.

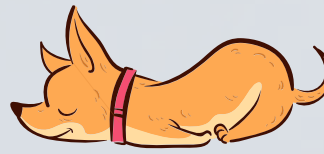
Is your pet relaxed, or do they seem tense or anxious?

Are they eating and drinking normally?

Note any changes in behaviour patterns, such as changes in eating or sleeping habits.

Common Types/Signs of Behavioural Issues in Pets:

- Separation anxiety
- Aggression
- Loss of appetite
- Sleeping more than usual
- Fear of loud noises or sudden movements
- Excessive barking
- Destructiveness when left alone
- House soiling
- Hiding
- Chewing on objects
- Leash pulling



Recognising these behaviours and their triggers is the first step in addressing them to prevent them from becoming more serious issues.

Preventing Behavioural Issues in Pets

• Early Socialisation Practices

Socialisation exposes pets to different situations, people and animals, helping them learn how to interact appropriately. Early socialisation practices can prevent anxiety and fear-related behaviours, such as aggression.

• The Importance of Consistent Training

Continuous training using reward-based methods is necessary to ensure pets follow voice cues and understand expectations. Voice cues such as 'sit,' 'stay,' and 'come' are crucial for proper communication between the pet and their human parent.

• Diet and Exercise Considerations

Diet and exercise also play an essential role in pets' behaviour. Regular exercise and a balanced diet can keep pets healthy, happy and less anxious. It's also essential to ensure pets have adequate time to rest and recover after running, playing, or training.



Effective Solutions for Common Behavioural Problems in Dogs

- **Aggression and Bite Prevention Techniques**

Aggressive behaviour is a serious issue that requires professional attention from vets and behaviourists. However, some measures can be taken to prevent bites, such as avoiding unfamiliar dogs, not interrupting dogs while they eat or sleep and ensuring proper socialisation.

- **Separation Anxiety Solutions**

Separation anxiety is common in pets that dislike being alone. Treatment ranges from training to medication to alleviate anxiety symptoms. Gradually increasing separation time and providing distractions like toys or food can help reduce anxiety.

- **Excessive Barking Management Strategies**

Excessive barking can be frustrating for both pets and their human companions. Training, positive reinforcement and calming collars can manage this behaviour. Consistency is key in addressing excessive barking, and identifying the root cause is crucial.

Professional Help in Resolving Behavioural Issues in Pets

While basic training and management techniques can help with some behavioural issues, others require professional intervention. Veterinary behaviourists are experts in animal behaviour and provide effective therapy. They diagnose the cause, develop customised treatment plans, and may prescribe medication.

Treatment options for severe behaviour issues range from medication to behaviour modification therapy. Medication can help manage anxiety and aggression, while behaviour modification therapy helps your pet learn new ways to cope with their triggers. Your veterinarian or animal behaviourist can help determine the best course of action for your pet.

- **When to Seek Help from a Professional**

If your pet is exhibiting fear, or anxiety that is impacting their daily life, it may be time to consult a veterinarian or animal behaviourist.

You must ensure that the behaviourist possesses the required qualifications and substantial experience in working with dogs. It's also crucial to understand the behaviourist's training methods and philosophy, ensuring they don't use negative reinforcement or promote a pack mentality. Additionally, a significant red flag is when your dog doesn't want to be around them.

- **Alternative Therapies for Treating Behavioural Issues in Pets**

Besides traditional treatments, alternative therapies like acupuncture, massage, and herbal remedies can be considered if traditional methods prove ineffective.

Pets are an important part of our lives, but their behaviour can sometimes seem mysterious and confusing. Assessing their behaviour is an ongoing process that requires patience, consistency, and a willingness to learn. Whether you're managing a minor behaviour issue or seeking help for a more severe problem, remember that there are always resources available to support you and your pet.

7.3 Training

Pets, just like humans, have their own personalities and quirks, and sometimes their behaviour can be challenging to deal with. However, with the right training and reinforcement techniques, you can modify their behaviour and have a happy and obedient pet.

Positive reinforcement training is like teaching your pets good behaviours by rewarding them when they do things you like. Rewards can come in the form of treats, praise, and playtime. For example, if you want your dog, Max, to sit instead of jumping up on people, you give him treats or praise when he sits calmly. This makes Max associate sitting with good things, so he's more likely to do it again. The idea is to show Max what behaviours are good by rewarding him, so he learns to choose those behaviours on his own. Just be patient and consistent - Max will learn and become a well-behaved and happy dog!

THE 4 PILLARS OF POSITIVE TRAINING

USE POSITIVE
REINFORCEMENT



AVOID THE USE OF
INTIMIDATION,
PHYSICAL
PUNISHMENT
OR FEAR



UNDERSTAND THE
MISCONCEPTIONS
OF DOMINANCE
THEORY



LEARN ABOUT
THE CANINE
EXPERIENCE
FROM THE DOG'S
POINT OF VIEW



Consistency and patience are key when it comes to pet training. You need to stick to a routine and follow through with your voice cues or rewards consistently. It's also important to be patient with your dog, as they may not learn everything right away. Breaking down training into small steps and being consistent with rewards will help your pet learn more effectively.

Assess your Pet's Behaviour

1. Environment

1 (a) How comfortable is your dog in an indoor environment? (Rate – 1 to 5)

1 – Scared, 5 – Very comfortable

1 (b) How comfortable is your dog in an outdoor environment? (Rate – 1 to 5)

1 – Scared, 5 – Very comfortable

2. Sociability

- Sociability with known people
- Friendly
- Growls
- Barks
- Gets over excited
- Nervous / wary
- Aggressive
- Has bitten someone before

3. Has your pet done any of the following to family members?

- Growled and snarled
- Lunging and grabbing (bruising)
- Snapped and made contact causing no mark(s)
- Grabbing, holding on and shaking
- Multiple wounds (more than one bite)
- Snapped but not made contact
- Puncture wound (only one bite)

4. Please describe how your pet gets on with children that they live with.

- Relaxed
- Plays
- Too cheerful and lively
- Ignores
- Nervous
- Aggressive

5. How does your pet typically react to other dogs?

(a) On the lead:

- Plays
- Growls
- Ignores
- Chases
- Nervous
- Gets over excited
- Aggressive

(b) Off lead:

- Plays
- Growls
- Ignores
- Chases
- Nervous
- Gets over excited
- Aggressive

(Note: Dogs can also normally growl and chase while playing.)

6. Grooming

(a) How does your pet react to being groomed?

- Enjoys
- Turns into a game
- Remains silent
- Struggles
- Mouths
- Bites
- Other: _____

7. Toys

(a) List the type of toys the dog likes to play with: _____

(b) Does your pet like:

- Rough and tumble
- Chasing
- Tugging
- To play with other dogs

8. Walk, travel and muzzling

(a) Does your pet look relaxed and comfortable being muzzled?

- Yes
- No

(b) Is your pet leash trained?

- Yes
- No

(c) Is your pet comfortable travelling?

- Yes
- No

9. Likes and dislikes:

(a) List three things that make your dog happy:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

(b) List three things that your dog is scared of:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

10. Training

(a) Is your pet house trained?

- Yes
- No
- Sometimes
- Only when we are at home

(b) Does your pet know your basic voice cues, for example sit, stop, stand, lying down etc.?

- Yes
- No
- If yes, what are the voice cues?

After completing this questionnaire, it's essential to analyse your pet's behaviour and identify any areas of concern. Here's what you should do based on your assessment:

Environment Comfort:

If your dog rates low in indoor or outdoor comfort, consider making gradual introductions to these environments to reduce fear or discomfort. Consult with a professional dog trainer if needed.

Sociability:

For sociability with known people, address any issues such as growling, barking, nervousness, or aggression by seeking professional training or behaviour modification.

If your pet has bitten someone before, especially causing multiple wounds, consult a certified dog behaviourist or trainer immediately.

Interactions with Family Members and Children:

If your pet displays aggressive behaviour towards family members or children, prioritise their safety. Consult with a professional to assess and address the root causes of aggression.

Reactions to Other Dogs:

Evaluate how your pet behaves on and off-lead with other dogs. If there are issues like aggression, nervousness, or over-excitement, consider controlled socialisation and training classes.

Grooming and Handling:

Work on positive grooming experiences with your pet, using treats and rewards to build trust.

If your dog shows aggressive grooming behaviour, consult with a professional groomer or behaviourist for guidance.

Toys and Food:

Take note of your pet's toy preferences and ensure safe play.

If your dog guards toys or food aggressively, consult a professional for guidance on resource guarding.

Walk, Travel, and Muzzling:

If your pet is uncomfortable with muzzles, gradually introduce them to desensitise the dog.

Leash training is important; seek professional help if your pet doesn't walk well on a leash.

If your dog is anxious while travelling, consult with a vet for possible solutions.

Likes and Dislikes:

Cater to the things that make your dog happy while avoiding or gradually introducing things they are scared of.

Training:

If your pet isn't house trained, establish a consistent routine and consider professional training.

Basic voice cues are crucial; if your dog doesn't know them, enrol in obedience classes or consult a professional trainer for guidance.

Remember, consulting a professional dog trainer or behaviourist for specific issues is advisable to ensure the safety and well-being of your pet and those around them. Your pet's behaviour can often be improved with patience, positive reinforcement and expert guidance.

7.4 Body language

Understanding your dog's body language is like unlocking their secret code. From tail wags to ear positions, these subtle cues could help in revealing what your dog is really feeling. Let's dive into the basic body language in dogs that pet parents should be aware of.

- **Tail Position:** A raised tail often indicates alertness or excitement, while a tucked tail can signal fear or submission.
- **Ears:** Forward-pointing ears suggest attentiveness, while flattened ears may indicate fear or aggression.
- **Eyes:** Dilated pupils can show excitement or stress, while squinting may signify discomfort or aggression.
- **Mouth:** A relaxed, slightly open mouth is usually a sign of contentment. Snarling or baring teeth can indicate aggression or fear.
- **Body Posture:** A relaxed, loose body posture suggests comfort and playfulness, while a stiff, tense body can be a sign of stress or aggression.
- **Hackles:** When the fur along a dog's back stands on end, it can indicate arousal or aggression.
- **Yawning or Lip Licking:** These can be signs of stress or discomfort.
- **Whining or Barking:** The pitch and intensity of vocalisations can convey different emotions, from excitement to fear.
- **Paw Lifting:** Raising one paw can be a sign of uncertainty or an invitation to play.
- **Rolling Over:** While it's often seen as a sign of submission or an invitation to belly rubs, it can also indicate fear or avoidance.

It's important to remember that a dog's body language should be interpreted in context, considering the overall situation and the individual dog's personality.

Becoming fluent in your dog's body language is a wonderful way to strengthen your bond and ensure their well-being. So, keep a watchful eye on those tails, ears, and more, and you'll find yourself communicating with your dog like a pro.

CHAPTER 8

Understanding the Welfare and Rights of your Pet



8.1 Pet Welfare

Pet welfare means ensuring the well-being and quality of life of your pets or companion animals. This involves providing them with proper care, love, and a suitable environment that meets their physical, social, and emotional needs.

As a dog parent, you should become aware of some key aspects of animal welfare, including:

- **Proper nutrition:** To ensure good health, dogs require a balanced and nutritious diet that meets their dietary needs. Providing high-quality dog food and fresh water, and feeding them on an appropriate schedule are essential components of proper nutrition. Clean and fresh water should be made available at all times.
- **Veterinary Care:** Regular check-ups, vaccinations, and prompt medical attention for sick or injured dogs are important.
- **Exercise and Stimulation:** Dogs are active animals that need regular exercise to stay physically fit and mentally stimulated. Regular walks, playtime, and interactive toys keep dogs physically fit and mentally engaged, reducing behavioural issues.
- **Socialisation:** Social opportunities need to be tailored to the individual dog. Socialising with other dogs and people from a young age can help dogs develop good behaviour and minimise the development of fear behaviours, including aggression. However, not all dogs prefer the company of other dogs or people and it significantly depends on their previous life experiences. Your pet should not be forced to socialise if they are not relaxed or confident with it.
- **Safe and Clean Environment:** Dogs should have a safe and comfortable living environment. Providing dogs with suitable shelter, protection from extreme weather, and a clean living space ensures their safety and comfort.
- **Positive Reinforcement Training:** Using rewards and encouragement for training dogs is effective and humane. Harsh training techniques or physical punishment must always be avoided as they can be harmful, and can also worsen existing problematic behaviours or lead to new ones, including aggression.
- **Preventing cruelty and neglect:** Addressing issues like abandonment, abuse, and illegal breeding and trading of dogs, are crucial for dog welfare.
- **Awareness and education:** Raising awareness about responsible dog parenting, proper care, training, and spaying/neutering is crucial to improving dog welfare.

- **Legal protection:** Strong animal welfare laws and enforcement safeguard dogs from abuse and neglect, including regulating breeding and pet parenting.

By focusing on these aspects, you can ensure that dogs are treated with kindness, receive proper care, and lead happy lives as beloved companions.

8.2 Animal Rights and Laws in India

There are several laws and acts established in India to protect the interests of animals. As pet parents or caretakers of street dogs, it's essential to be aware of the following:

- **Article 51A (G) of the Constitution of India** places the fundamental duty on all Indian citizens to display compassion towards all living creatures, among other duties.
- **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**, or the PCA Act is the primary legislation in India for preventing cruelty to animals. It prohibits the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals and outlines various forms of cruelty, such as beating, kicking, and poisoning.
- **Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001**, enacted under the PCA Act, mentions that the legal ways for controlling and minimising street dog populations and eradicating the threat of rabies are sterilisation and vaccination. These rules explicitly forbid the relocation of street dogs, including actions like throwing or forcefully transporting them from one location to another.
 - It is against the law for any individual, Resident Welfare Association (RWA), or estate management to remove or relocate dogs. Instead, the dogs must undergo sterilisation and/or vaccination procedures and be returned to the same area. It is also important to note that even the municipality is prohibited from removing vaccinated and sterilised dogs.
- **Section 378 of the Indian Penal Code** (hereinafter 'IPC') defines the offence of theft of 'moveable property,' which also includes animals within the same [section](#).
- **IPC Section 503** addresses the non-bailable offence of criminal intimidation, involving intentional threats to induce fear. Although not explicitly mentioned, this [section](#) can also apply to cases of intimidating pet parents or caretakers of street animals. For instance, if person A threatens person B with harm to them or their companion animals, person A can be held accountable for this offence.



8.3 The Five Domains Model of Animal Welfare

The Five Domains Model of Animal Welfare is a foundational framework for understanding and assessing the welfare of animals.

Developed to provide a comprehensive view of their well-being, this model includes five essential domains:

1. Nutrition
2. Environment
3. Health
4. Behaviour
5. Mental State

Each domain contributes significantly to an animal's quality of life, reflecting their physical, mental and emotional health. With the help of these domains, we can gain a holistic perspective on animal welfare, enabling us to identify areas for improvement and ensure the best possible conditions for the animals we share our world with.

Nutrition: A well-rounded diet with good nutrition should always be taken care of for the well-being of animals. They should be fed a mix of high-quality foods, including dry and wet, vegetables and some fruits. A varied diet keeps them both entertained and in good shape. It's equally important to ensure they always have access to clean water. Overfeeding should always be avoided, as it can lead to problems like discomfort and diseases. An overweight dog might have trouble moving around and enjoying life.

Environment: A suitable living environment for animals should be taken care of. This domain includes factors like temperature, housing conditions and space availability. Extreme heat or cold, overcrowding, or inadequate shelter can cause discomfort and affect the animal's welfare.

Health: The health domain involves monitoring and managing the health of animals to prevent pain, injury, or disease. Regular veterinary care, vaccination and timely treatment of illnesses or injuries are important to maintain good health.

Behaviour: Animals should feel free to express their natural behaviours and instincts. This domain addresses mental stimulation, social interactions, and the opportunity for animals to engage in their typical activities. Preventing boredom and frustration is a key aspect of this domain.

Mental State: The mental well-being of animals is influenced by the other four domains. When their nutritional, environmental, health and behavioural needs are met, animals are more likely to experience positive mental states, such as contentment and happiness. Neglect in any of these domains can lead to stress, anxiety and other negative mental states.

8.4 Pet Care Questions

1. **Is your pet: Normal / Obese / Skinny?**

2. **How many times do you feed your pet and how much each time?**

No. of feeding times: _____

Amount of food: _____

3. **What do you feed your pet, and do you believe it's a sufficient diet?**

Food type: _____

Is it sufficient? _____

4. **Does your pet have enough space to walk around, play, and sleep?**

Yes/No (Please justify your response): _____

5. **Do you chain your dog? If yes, for how many hours?**

Yes/No

Hours chained: _____

6. **Is your pet's sleeping area comfortable, well-ventilated, and protected from extreme temperatures?**

Comfortable - Yes/No

Well Ventilated - Yes/No

Extreme temperature protected - Yes/No

7. **Does your pet have any physical injuries or diseases?**

Yes/No

8. **Is your pet active and eating well?**

Active - Yes/No

Eating well - Yes/No

9. **Are you providing the best veterinary care for your dog?**

Regular veterinary visits - Yes/No

De-flea/deworm/vaccinate as scheduled - Yes/No

Annual blood tests - Yes/No

10. **Does your pet have enough toys and enrichment activities, and do they get sufficient exercise and mental stimulation?**

Enough toys and enrichment activities - Yes/No

Sufficient exercise and mental stimulation - Yes/No

11. **Is your dog's space sufficient, comfortable, and clean?**

Sufficient - Yes/No

Comfortable - Yes/No

Clean - Yes/No

12. **Does your dog show signs of distress (crying, howling, or looking depressed)?**

Yes/No

8.5 Caring for Your Pet's Well-being and Health

Identifying and Addressing Weight Issues

- **Understanding Obesity in Pets:** If your pet is overweight, it's essential to identify the underlying causes contributing to their obesity. Overfeeding or feeding the wrong type of food may be a factor, but there could be additional medical reasons involved. By determining the root cause, you can take appropriate measures to help your pet achieve a healthy weight and prevent potential health complications.
- **Addressing Underweight Concerns:** If your pet appears too thin with visible ribs, don't dismiss it as normal. Investigate the cause, which could be an underlying illness or worm infestation.

Seeking professional evaluation from a veterinarian is crucial in both scenarios to avoid severe health problems for your pet.

Nourishing Your Pet with a Balanced Diet

- **Essential Dietary Considerations:** Taking care of your pet's diet is of utmost importance. The question of what and how much to feed is crucial, considering factors such as age, breed, and existing medical conditions. Understanding your pet's specific dietary needs based on their breed and age is vital for maintaining their health.
- **Proper Nutrition for Your Pet:** Like human babies and growing children, pets also require a properly balanced diet, including carbohydrates, proteins, minerals, and vitamins. Knowing and meeting the specific dietary requirements of your pet's breed and age is essential for optimal health.

Responsible Dog Chaining Practices

- **Avoiding Prolonged Chaining:** Chaining a dog for prolonged periods can be harmful to their well-being. If you must chain your dog, provide them with clean water, safe shelter away from direct sun, appropriate space to move freely, and protection from extreme weather conditions. However, chaining for more than two hours raises concerns, and alternative options should be considered.

Responsible pet parenting involves prioritising the dog's welfare and finding alternatives to extended chaining whenever feasible.

Considering Your Pet's Perspective

- **Empathy for Your Pet:** To ensure your pet's comfort and protection, put yourself in their place and understand their emotions. Remember that dogs are sentient beings with feelings similar to ours.
- **Prompt Veterinary Attention:** If you notice signs of dullness, inactivity, or poor appetite, promptly take your pet to the veterinarian for early diagnosis and timely intervention.

Legal Backing



9.1 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 [hereinafter 'PCA Act'] is an all-encompassing law to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on all animals. The Act defines 'animals' as living creatures other than human beings.

The Act includes punishments for acts of cruelty towards all animals, including dogs. Section 11(1) penalises the following actions done by anyone:

- (a): Beating, kicking, torturing, causing unnecessary pain and suffering.
- (b): Employing an infirm, wounded, unfit animal in any work/labour.
- (c): Administration of injurious drugs or substances.
- (d): Causing pain/suffering while carrying/conveying.
- (e): Inadequate space (no reasonable opportunity for movement).
- (f): Tethering (tying) an animal for an unreasonably long time or/and using an unreasonably short cord.
- (g): Neglect by the dog parent towards exercising any dog who is consistently chained or kept in close confinement.
- (h): Insufficient food, water and shelter by the pet parent.
- (i): Abandonment leading to suffering like starvation or thirst.
- (j): Being the pet parent, permits an animal affected with contagious/infectious disease to go at large on the street, or unreasonably permits a diseased or disabled animal to die in any street.
- (k): Overcrowding, mutilation, starvation, ill-treatment of animals; or offers for sale any animal suffering as such.
- (l): Killing or mutilating any animal (including street dogs). [Cognizable offence]
- (m): For sole entertainment purposes; confining an animal to make them prey for another animal, inciting animals to fight or bait each other, or using an animal as bait in a sanctuary.
- (n): Using animals for fighting or as bait. [Cognizable offence]
- (o): Using animals in shooting competitions. [Cognizable offence]

B) Legal consequences following the commission of an offence under the PCA Act

- The Court can deprive a person, convicted of cruelty, of the possession of the animal in respect of which the offence was committed and/or prohibit him from keeping any animal in the future either permanently or for a fixed period.
- Depriving the custody of an animal during the pendency of the case in the Court.
- Animals seized can be directed by the Judge (Magistrate) to be housed at an Animal Welfare Organisation (AWO, recognised by AWBI) /SPCA.
- If the accused is convicted or pleads guilty, they will be deprived of the possession of the animal. Subsequently, the animal will be handed over to the AWO/SPCA for adoption.
- If the animal is abandoned/ownerless or the owner voluntarily gives up their ownership, then the animal will be put up for adoption.

Adoption

Conditions on AWO/ SPCA Adoption: -

1. A person who has previously been charged for an offence under the PCA Act cannot adopt.
2. Dogs and cats must be neutered/spayed before adoption.
3. Maintain a record of the name and address of the adopter along with identity and address proof.
4. Obtain a declaration from the adopter in the form of an affidavit that they will not alienate the animals for 6 months and shall abide by the laws, and get regular veterinary checks done.

b) Conditions on Adopter: -

1. Cannot sell the animal.
2. Cannot abandon the animal.
3. Cannot sacrifice animals for religious purposes.

AWO/SPCA giving the animal up for adoption can inspect the animal adopted from time to time and if it finds that the adopter is not providing the animal with sufficient care or if it has reasons to believe that cruelty against the animal is anticipated then the AWO/SPCA will take the possession of the animal.



Offences related to animals in the Indian Penal Code

- **Section 377** - Bestiality: Sexual intercourse between a person and an animal. (Note: Section 377 has been scrapped only to the extent it criminalises LGBTQ sexual relations. Sexual intercourse with an animal remains a serious and cognizable offence.)
- **Section 428 and 429** - Killing, poisoning, maiming or rendering an animal useless (sic). [Cognizable offence]
- **Section 378 and 379** - Theft [Cognizable offence]
- **Section 289** - Negligent conduct: Failure to take sufficient steps in respect of an animal in possession to guard against any probable danger to human life or any probable danger of grievous hurt from such an animal. [Cognizable offence]

9.2 Animal Birth Control Rules 2001 & 2023

With the rise in conflict between humans and street dogs, the Animal Birth Control Programme provides the most humane solution to control the dog population. The Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 (in supersession of the 2001 Rules) framed by the Central Government under the PCA Act lay down Rules regarding sterilisation, immunisation and feeding of street/community dogs. The Rules also provide for a mechanism to deal with specific complaints about dog bites from street dogs suspected to be suffering from Rabies.

Categorisation: The Rules provide for two categories of dogs:

- (1) **Pet animals** - Dogs owned and kept indoors by individuals.
 - (2) **Street dogs or community-owned** Indian dogs or abandoned pedigreed dogs that are homeless, living on the street or within a gated campus.
- In the case of pet animals, the human parent of the animal is responsible for the deworming, immunisation and sterilisation.
 - In the case of street animals, the local authority is responsible for deworming, immunisation and sterilisation and may engage a recognised Animal Welfare Organisation to carry out the animal birth control program as laid down in the Rules.

The Capture of Street Dogs

Street dogs can be captured either for sterilisation or upon complaint of dog bites.

1. The Rules lay down the procedure and how the capture is to be made which inter alia provides that the residents of the area shall be informed by a public notice/announcement about the capture of the street dogs for sterilisation and immunisation. The announcement may also educate the residents about the Animal Birth Control Programme to draw the support of the residents.
2. Street dogs under 6 months of age and female dogs with puppies of less than 2 months of age, cannot be captured for sterilisation.
3. The dogs are to be released at the same place or locality from where they were captured.

Feeding of Street/Community Dogs

The Animal Birth Control Rules 2023 addresses the humane management of the dog population. These rules promote the feeding of community animals, including street dogs, while assigning the responsibility to local bodies, municipalities, Municipal Corporations, and Panchayats to ensure proper arrangements for feeding these animals within their premises or designated areas. These arrangements should include agreed-upon feeding spots and times to prevent littering.

Designated feeders are tasked with maintaining clean feeding areas and are even encouraged to participate in activities like vaccination, catching, and releasing dogs as part of the Animal Birth Control Programme.

To handle conflicts between Resident Welfare Associations or Apartment Owner Associations and animal caregivers or residents, an Animal Welfare Committee has the authority to intervene and mediate.

It's important to note that the 2001 Rules primarily focused on sterilising street dogs and releasing them back into their original capture areas.

9.3 Breed-Specific Legislation

No law in India bans or regulates specific breeds of dogs. Nevertheless, there has been a rise in attempts among local authorities, like the [ban in Ghaziabad](#), to restrict certain breeds within their jurisdiction. However, these efforts have not been supported by the judiciary. In 2022, the Gurugram Consumer Forum's order banning 11 foreign breeds was suspended by the Punjab and Haryana High Court, while also addressing broader concerns related to dog bites and conflicts between humans and street dogs.

In 2018, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) i.e., the urban local body of Bengaluru, had framed pet licensing by-laws which imposed restrictions on the number of dogs which can be kept by an individual and also prohibited keeping certain breeds of dogs as pets. The said by-laws received severe backlash from the citizens and multiple petitions were filed in the Karnataka High Court. Ultimately, the BBMP withdrew the bye-laws and the petitions were accordingly disposed of.

9.4 Breeding Rules

Illegal dog breeding has been a menace and grossly compromises the welfare and health of the dogs. The gap in the law regulating the breeding and sale of dogs has been sought to be filled by the [Dog Breeding and Marketing Rules 2017](#) made under the PCA Act. Some of the features of these Rules are as follows:

1. Mandatory registration of the breeders without which they cannot breed dogs. The certificate of registration must be displayed prominently.
2. Every establishment to be used or being used for breeding must be separately registered and such establishments shall be inspected by the State Animal Welfare Board and a veterinary practitioner.

Conditions for sale:

- Pups less than eight weeks in age cannot be sold.
- Dogs over six months of age should not be sold without first being sterilised unless they are being sold to another licensed breeder.
- Only dogs in good health, that have been provided the medical inoculations, must be sold.
- Each pup sold should be microchipped and a complete record of treatment and vaccination should be maintained.
- Pups should not be displayed in public places for immediate sale.
- A sale receipt should be provided to each purchaser and copy thereof should be retained with the microchip number of the pup sold and the name, address and phone number of the purchaser.
- A breeder cannot sell a dog to a pet shop running without a licence.
- A pup not sold within six months shall be rehabilitated by the breeder through an Animal Welfare Organisation.

3. The Second Schedule lays down standards and requirements to be met by the breeder and the establishments used for breeding. Failure to maintain these standards will disentitle a breeder from getting their registration renewed under the Rules. Some of these standards include the following:

- Inbreeding and incest breeding are prohibited.
- Only healthy females and males who are at least 18 months old shall be bred.
- Female dogs should not be bred in two consecutive breeding seasons and should not be bred to produce more than 5 litters of puppies during their lifespan.
- Female dogs shall not be bred after 8 years of age.
- Artificial insemination or a 'rape stand' shall not be used.
- Tail docking, ear cropping, debarking, declawing, branding, dyeing, injecting substances to enhance visual appeal, performing surgery, or procedures to camouflage or hide any defects or infirmities, as well as any other form of mutilation of a pup's body parts, and any alteration of appearance through artificial means, are strictly prohibited.
- Detailed standards and requirements in respect of housing, exercise, ventilation, vaccination, feeding, sanitation, lighting, and waste disposal are also laid down.

9.5 Transportation Rules

The Transport of Animals Rules, 1978 under the PCA Act lay down the following rules for the transportation of dogs of all breeds whether by rail, road, inland, waterway, sea or air:

- A valid health certificate by a qualified veterinary surgeon to the effect that the dogs are in a fit condition to travel by rail, road, inland, waterways, sea or air and are not showing any sign of infectious or contagious disease including rabies is mandatory.
- In the absence of such a certificate, the carrier shall refuse to accept the consignment for transport.
- No dog in an advanced stage of pregnancy shall be transported.
- Dogs to be transported in the same container shall be of the same species and breed.
- Unweaned puppies shall not be transported with adult dogs other than their biological mother.
- No female dog in season shall be transported with any male.
- Any dog reported to be vicious or exhibiting a vicious disposition shall be transported individually in a cage, muzzled and labelled to give a warning to the handlers.
- In extreme cases, the dogs shall be administered sedative drugs by a qualified veterinary surgeon.

When dogs are to be transported for long distances:

- They shall be fed and given water at least two hours before their transport and shall not be packed for transport if they are hungry or thirsty.
- They should be exercised as late as possible before dispatch.
- They shall be given adequate water for drinking every four hours in summer or every six hours during winter.
- Adult dogs shall be fed once in twelve hours and puppies shall be fed once in four hours following the instructions of the consignors if any.
- Adequate arrangements shall be made for their care and management during the journey.
- When the dogs are to be transported by rail involving a journey of more than six hours, an attendant shall accompany the dogs to supply them with food and water on the way and the attendant shall have access to the dogs for this purpose at all stations and no dog shall be exposed to the direct blast of air during such journey.

When dogs are to be transported for short distances by road in a public vehicle, the following precautions are to be taken:

- The dogs must be placed in a cage, and the cage should not be placed on the roof of the vehicle. It should be located inside the vehicle, preferably towards the rear.
- The vehicle transporting the dogs should maintain a consistent speed whenever possible, avoiding sudden stops and minimising the impact of shocks and jolts.
- At least one attendant must be present throughout the transit to ensure proper conditions for the dogs and to provide food and water as needed.

Where dogs are to be transported by air:

- The cages shall be properly cleaned and disinfected before the dogs are placed in the cages.
- For international transport, the dogs shall be kept in a pressurised compartment with a regulated temperature.

For transport of animals by air and rail, it is advisable to check the policy of the concerned airline or the Indian Railways, as the case may be.

For travel to and from another country, please see the norms of the import/export of pets on the [website](#) of the Animal Quarantine and Certification Services, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

9.6 Pet Registration

Different local authorities, such as municipal corporations, have distinct requirements and procedures for pet registration. In most cities, registering pets with the local corporation is mandatory, along with ensuring their vaccination. Typically, registration needs to be periodically renewed. This practice aids authorities in maintaining a record of pet parents and their animals. Registration not only legitimises pet parenthood but also contributes to minimising instances of pet abandonment.

9.7 Animal Welfare Board of India Guidelines

The Animal Welfare Board of India (referred to as 'AWBI') is the statutory body established under the PCA Act. It is responsible for advising the Central Government on animal protection laws and promoting animal welfare. On 26.02.2015, the AWBI issued detailed guidelines with respect to pet dogs and street dogs. These guidelines are still in effect and address various challenges faced by pet parents and caregivers of street dogs in apartments, societies, and gated colonies. There are separate guidelines for pet parents, street dog caregivers, Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), Apartment Owners' Associations, and societies, among others.

9.8 Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can we take our pets in the society's lift? Can anyone stop us?

- Yes, you can take your pet in your society's lift, and you cannot be stopped. However, if there is an alternate lift that is conveniently accessible, they may request residents to use that lift for their pets, in the larger interest of all residents.

2. We have a Pitbull; can we get their ears cropped?

- No, it is illegal. Ear cropping is a kind of mutilation which amounts to cruelty under the PCA Act (1960), and is a punishable offence. Moreover, it is an unnecessary cosmetic procedure.

3. My dog has bitten my neighbour, what are the consequences? What should I do?

- If your dog has bitten your neighbour, you should first pacify and sympathise with them. You may assure them that your pet is registered and vaccinated and offer to take them to the nearest hospital. A criminal complaint can be made against you only if you have been negligent about your dog and have failed to take steps to prevent grievous hurt (as defined under S. 320 of the Indian Penal Code) or to prevent endangering human life.

4. Can I take my dog to the park?

- You may take your dog to a public park by adhering to the park's norms and guidelines for bringing dogs. According to the Animal Welfare Board of India, the entry of pet dogs in public parks should not be banned. Instead, timings may be specified for mornings and evenings. All dog parents may be required to pick up the excreta of the dog and dogs may be leashed.

5. Can the RWA stop me from keeping a pet? Can my landlord prohibit me from keeping a pet?

- No, the RWA/society committee, etc., cannot stop you from keeping a pet. Even the landlord cannot prohibit you from keeping a pet. In a judgement dated 02.11.2021, the Kerala High Court in a public interest litigation [WP (C) 13603/2021 - People for Animals v. State of Kerala and Others] declared that clauses in any bye-law or agreement that have the effect of absolutely prohibiting a person from keeping a pet of their choice in a residential unit are void and unenforceable in law.

6. Can the local body (Municipal Corporation) confiscate my dog?

- Your dog can be confiscated by an authority only if there is a law empowering such authority to do the same. Under the PCA Act, it is only a police officer who has the power to seize animals in respect of any act of cruelty committed against the animal. The Municipal Corporation may have certain powers of confiscation in case a pet dog is found wandering on a public street and for that, the local Municipal Act will have to be checked.

7. Can I feed my community dogs?

- Yes, you can feed your community dogs, and there is no law which prevents you from doing the same. By showing compassion towards street animals, you are fulfilling a fundamental duty under the Constitution of India. However, it is a good practice to mutually agree (with the other residents, the society committee etc.) on certain designated feeding areas that are away from crowded spots and which may not cause inconvenience to other residents, especially senior citizens and children. Designated time may also be agreed upon. Please also ensure that the feeding areas remain clean. Such practices will go a long way in reducing the conflict often faced by feeders.

CHAPTER 10

Travelling with your Pet

10.1 Domestic

In India, if you are planning to travel with your pet there are three ways with which you can travel, by road, by train, or by air.

General guidelines for travelling with your pet:

1. **Consult your vet:** Obtain approval from your veterinarian that your pet is healthy and fit for travel; discuss the travel method and get necessary medications. Obtain a health certificate from the vet, including your pet's name, breed, age, colour and gender.
2. **Vaccination record:** Maintain a record of your pet's vaccinations and request a vaccination certificate from your vet, indicating the administered vaccines and the upcoming due date.
3. **Get pet insurance:** While pet insurance in India is relatively new, several companies offer health coverage for pets. Research different insurance options to select the most suitable one, ensuring coverage for mishaps and healthcare expenses during the journey.
4. **Identification tags:** Attach an identification tag to your pet's collar, featuring their name, your name, address, and emergency contact number. Consider microchipping for added security to aid in reuniting with your pet if lost during transit.
5. **Travel kit:** Pack essentials for your pet's journey, including a blanket, bedding, toys, first aid supplies, tissues/napkins, food and water bowls, pee mats, a poop tray, waste bags, and any other necessary items. Your dog may need to be taught how to use these first.
6. **Food and water:** Carry an adequate supply of food, chews, treats, and water for your pet during travel. Provide more water and less food to your pet while on the move.
7. **Climate considerations:** Before travelling, research the climate conditions of your route and destination. Pack accordingly to ensure your pet's comfort throughout the journey.
8. **Pet-friendly Accommodations:** Look for accommodations that are pet-friendly at your destination. Consider these points when booking a hotel:
 - Will the hotel offer food for your pet?
 - Will they provide bedding?
 - Are nearby veterinarians available?
 - Are there pet-friendly restaurants in the vicinity?

Travelling by Road:

There are a few options if you're going by road.

By Bus: In most parts of India, pets are not allowed on state transport buses, except for those operated by Karnataka state transport (KSRTC). KSRTC lets you bring your pet on their non-AC buses within the city and on certain routes. You'll need to pay a fee for your pet, similar to a child's fare. However, premium services like Karnataka Vaibhav, Rajahamsa, non-AC sleeper, and AC buses don't allow pets. Some private bus services might allow pets, but long journeys can be uncomfortable for them due to limited space.

By Car: Travelling by car is often the best choice for pets. Cars have more room, and you can stop whenever you and your pet need a break.



Here are some things to consider if you're travelling by car with your pet:

1. **Consult your vet:** Just like people, dogs can feel sick in the car. Ask your vet for advice and medicine if your dog gets motion sick. Bring any regular medications your pet needs.
2. **Don't feed right before the trip:** Feeding your pet right before the journey can make them feel sick. It's better to feed them a little earlier.
3. **Get your dog used to the car:** Before your trip, let your dog sit in the parked car to get used to the space. Take short trips to fun places, so your dog doesn't think the car is only for vet visits.
4. **Bring important documents:** Carry documents like a fitness certificate, vaccination records, and proof of pet parenthood. You might need these if you're travelling between states.
5. **Keep your pet safe:** Secure your dog with a harness attached to the seat belts. If your dog is small, having a companion in the back seat can be comforting. Don't let your dog stick their head out the window, and keep them away from car controls.

6. Drive carefully: Drive slowly over speed bumps and avoid sudden brakes. Watch out for potholes.

7. Take breaks: Stop often so your dog can stretch, pee and poop. Remember to carry waste bags.

8. Carry a travel kit: Bring things like a blanket, bedding, toys, pee mats, towels, food and water bowls, a leash and a first-aid kit.

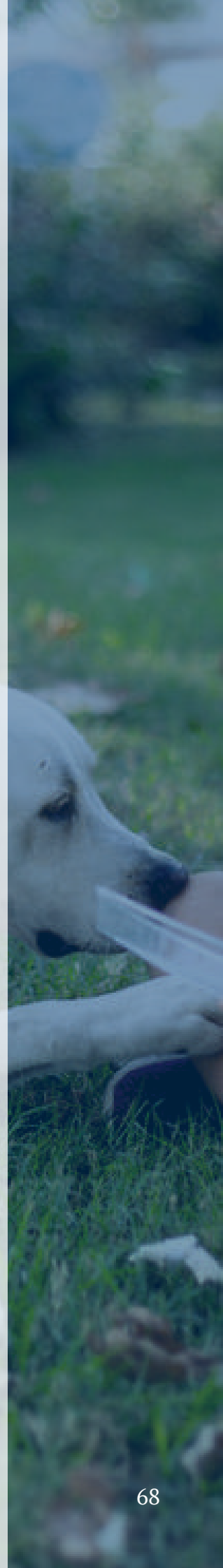
9. Find pet-friendly places: Look for restaurants that allow pets and offer food for them. It's important to keep your dog fed and hydrated.

10. Don't leave your pet alone in a car: Never leave your pet alone in a closed car, especially in hot weather. Try to park in the shade if possible.

Travelling with your pet can be enjoyable if you plan ahead and make sure they're comfortable and safe during the journey.

Travelling by Train

For a long journey, taking the train is a great choice for your pet. Indian Railways allows pets on their trains, but there are some rules you should know before you book the tickets:



In Passenger Compartment:

1. Pets are only allowed in the AC First-Class compartment. (Cabin (4 Berth) or Coupe (2 Berth) are the seating layout available in the AC First class compartments.)
2. The passenger needs a confirmed ticket for the journey.
3. Only one dog is allowed per ticket (PNR).
4. You'll need to pay a fee for your pet.
5. If fellow passengers complain, your pet might be moved to the Guard's van, and no refund will be given.
6. A doctor's certificate mentioning the breed, colour, and gender of the pet is mandatory to carry.
7. Passengers will be solely responsible for the safe carriage of the pet.
8. Passengers should carry food and water for the pets.
9. Prescribed luggage charges are applicable for pets.
10. For passengers carrying dogs without proper booking, a penalty of 6 times scale-luggage rates subject to a minimum of Rs 30/- will be imposed on them.
11. If the pets are carried in the basket or crates, they are allowed in any compartments. Rest all the rules remain the same.

In Brake Van:

1. Passengers can book a special dog-box in the luggage-cum-brake van under the train manager's supervision.
2. Only one dog is allowed per dog box.
3. Charges based on the pet's weight will apply.
4. The receipt (Guard's foil) obtained should be submitted to the Guard of the train at the originating station.
5. Passenger foil of the receipt must be produced to the guard at the destination station.
6. A doctor's certificate mentioning the breed, colour, and gender of the pet is mandatory to carry.
7. Passengers should provide drinking water and food, for the dog travelling in a brake van.

Procedure to book a ticket for the pet:

1. Book a Ticket:

- Get a passenger ticket at the counter or online, choosing AC-First class.
- You won't get your seat right away, so you won't know if it's a cabin or a coupe.

2. Choose Your Compartment:

- It's better to have a coupe than a cabin to travel with your pet.
- Write an application to the Chief Reservation Officer asking for a coupe. Attach your confirmed ticket and mention you're travelling with your pet.

3. Get Your Seat:

- About 4 hours before the journey, you'll get your confirmed seat.

4. Visit Parcel Office:

- Go to the parcel office at least 3 hours before your trip because it's generally crowded.
- Bring photocopies of your ticket, ID proof, and your pet's fitness certificate (from the doctor).
- Pay the applicable luggage charges based on your pet's weight.

Remember These Points:

- **Plan Walk Breaks:** Check the train schedule for longer stops (10-15 minutes) to let your pet take a walk and poop/pee.
- **Pack Essentials:** Bring food, water, blankets, toys, pee mats, paper, tissues, towels, and a poop tray.
- **Clean Up:** Make sure to clean the compartment for the next passenger.
- **Stay Updated:** Rules might change, so keep yourself informed.

Flying with Your Pet:



Cargo travel of a dog



Cabin travel

Air travel is fast but can be costly. In India, only [Air India](#) and [Akasa Air](#) let pets fly. The guidelines to fly with your pet are as follows: (These are the basic guidelines. For more details please visit the official websites of the airlines):

1. It is mandatory to carry your pet inside a crate.

Air India: IATA approved soft bags, ventilated bags or kennels

Akasa Air: IATA approved hard containers.

2. Must carry a recent fitness certificate (within 48 hours) and vaccination proof.

3. Pets can travel in the cabin, passenger plane cargo section, or cargo plane based on weight.

Air India: <5 kg (cabin), up to 32 kg (checked-in baggage), over 32 kg (cargo).

Akasa Air: <7 kg (cabin), up to 32 kg (checked-in baggage), 32-100 kg (cargo).

4. Pets in the cabin must be muzzled and leashed.

5. Use a moisture-absorbent mat in the crate.

6. Your pet must be 8 weeks old (**Air India**) or 3 months old (**Akasa Air**) to fly.

7. Pregnant pets aren't allowed.

8. The crate must have a label with the pet's name, breed, and pet parent's details.

9. Number of Pets: **Air India:** Max 2 dogs in the cabin (1 in business, 1 in economy). Only the seat in the last row in each section will be allotted. Pets are booked on a first come, first served basis.

Akasa Air: Max 2 dogs per flight (1 cabin, 1 cargo). Generally, the last rows are allotted. Pets are booked on a first come, first served basis.

10. Pets are treated as excess baggage.

11. The charges are to be paid as the charges of extra baggage as per the weight of the pet.

12. Pets can't be on seats, they stay under the seat in front.

13. **Akasa Air** offers priority check-in if you travel with a pet.

14. Guide/Service dogs travel free, but must be leashed and muzzled, and also need health and vaccination certificates.

Procedure to Book the Ticket:

1. First, get a regular passenger ticket for yourself.

2. Weigh your pet while they're in their container.

3. If your pet isn't allowed in the passenger cabin, and their weight fits as checked-in baggage, decide if they'll travel with you on the plane or as cargo. If they weigh more than 32 kg, they must go as cargo.

4. Call the airline's customer care at least 48 hours before your trip. This is important because only two dogs are allowed on a first come, first served basis. If you're booking as cargo, visit the airline's cargo section to make arrangements.

5. On the day of your journey, make sure you have all the necessary documents ready.

6. Go to the airline's check-in counter and give the airline staff the required documents.

7. Depending on your pet's weight, you might need to pay an extra fee for their travel.

8. Once everything is sorted, you'll receive a ticket for your pet to travel.

10.2 International:

A Guide to Planning and Preparation

If you're considering moving your pet from India to another country, it's crucial to understand the different regulations of your chosen destination. Due to India's increased risk of rabies, several countries, including Australia, Singapore, and certain European nations, have imposed restrictions on dogs entering from India. These measures often involve titer tests and extended quarantine periods.

Even Canada, once a favoured destination for pet relocation, has recently prohibited the import of dogs and cats for commercial purposes from over 100 countries, including India. However, if your desired country does allow pets from India, specific guidelines and prerequisites must be adhered to, often established by airlines as well.

To ensure a smooth and stress-free relocation for both you and your pet, here are some general tips to keep in mind:

- **Research Destination Requirements:** Thoroughly research the import regulations, quarantine procedures, vaccination mandates, and necessary documentation of your destination country. Different countries have different rules, so gaining knowledge beforehand is important and favourable.
- **Consider Professional Assistance:** If you're uncertain about the process, consider engaging a trustworthy pet relocation service. These firms handle paperwork and travel arrangements, simplifying the entire process for you.
- **Update Vaccinations and Deworming:** Irrespective of your destination, ensure your pet's vaccinations and deworming treatments are up-to-date. Obtain authenticated documentation from your veterinarian.
- **Prepare for Titer Tests:** For rabies-free countries, anticipate titer tests. Titer tests measure the level of antibodies in an animal's bloodstream, indicating their immunity to a specific disease. These tests are often mandatory for entry.
- **Neuter Your Pet and Ensure Health Checks:** Neutering your dog before travel is recommended, as many countries require it. Conduct necessary health assessments, like parasite tests, to guarantee your pet's well-being and prevent potential risks to other animals and humans in the destination country.
- **Select the Right Travel Crate:** Purchase an appropriate travel crate or bag adhering to airline standards. A well-ventilated, secure, and cosy crate is crucial. Whether in cargo or cabin, a proper-sized container ensures your dog's safety and comfort during the journey.
- **Familiarise Your Pet with the Crate:** Gradually introduce your pet to the crate, allowing them to spend time inside. This helps them become comfortable with the travel environment.
- **Organise Essential Documentation:** Ensure you have all required documents, including airline approval, your pet's air ticket, and an authorised veterinary-signed rabies certificate. By adhering to these steps, you'll ensure a secure and smooth journey for both you and your furry companion.

CHAPTER 11

Ethical Decision Making

Often, the topic of euthanasia is avoided due to hesitation, but it is a crucial question for pet parents. At some point, many pet parents find themselves unable to decide what is right and wrong for their pets.

Note: - It is important to note that euthanasia is a sensitive topic, and this chapter aims to neither recommend nor oppose it. Our intention is simply to help pet parents make an informed decision.

Many people struggle with deciding when to euthanise their pets. Some are afraid of making the decision too early, while others are afraid of making it too late. Some wait for a sign or a 'look' from their pet, which may never come. We understand the immense pressure that comes with making this decision. As pet parents, we are responsible for our pet's safety and well-being, and we commit ourselves to protecting them from harm.



Several factors come into play when deciding whether to euthanise a pet. The quality of life of the pet and the resources available to the pet parent are two crucial considerations. The quality of life of a pet can be measured through the HHHHMM Scale (given below), which takes into account factors such as hurt, hunger, hydration, hygiene, happiness, mobility, and more. It is a guide that can be used to estimate quality of life and repeated to see if this is changing. It is always best to discuss the results with your vet to help you make the best decision for your pet.

Deciding to euthanise a pet is never easy, but it is a decision that must be made with the pet's best interests in mind.

We hope that this chapter will provide pet parents with the information they need to make an informed decision and give their pets the love and care they deserve.

11.1 Score your decision

Quality of Life Scale: The HHHHMM Scale	
Score the patient using a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the worst and 10 being the best	
SCORE	CRITERION
1 – 10	HURT – Adequate pain control. Breathing ability. Is the pet’s pain successfully managed? Is oxygen necessary?
1 – 10	HUNGER – Is the pet eating enough? Does hand feed help? Does the pet require a feeding tube?
1 – 10	HYDRATION – Is the pet dehydrated? For patients not drinking enough, use subcutaneous fluids once or twice daily to supplement fluid intake.
1 – 10	HYGIENE – The pet should be kept brushed and clean, particularly after elimination. Does the pet have pressure sores?
1 – 10	HAPPINESS – Does the pet express joy and interest? Is the pet responsive to things and the people around them? Is the pet depressed, lonely, anxious, bored or afraid? Can the pet’s bed be placed near family activities rather than isolated?
1 – 10	MOBILITY – Can the pet get up without assistance? Does the pet need human or mechanical help (eg: a cart)? Does the pet feel like going for a walk? Is the pet having seizures or stumbling?
1 – 10	MORE GOOD DAYS THAN BAD – When bad days outnumber good, quality of life might be compromised. When a healthy human-animal bond is no longer possible, the caregiver must be made aware the end is near. The decision needs to be made if the pet is suffering. If death comes peacefully and painlessly, that is okay.
TOTAL	*A total of over 35 points represents acceptable life quality.



ASK YOURSELF

1. Is your pet in pain?

It is important to recognise the common signs of pain in dogs, including pacing, excessive panting, hiding in unique areas, not seeking interaction with family, growling, snarling, snapping, immobility, whining, not eating, and flinching when touched.

2. Rate the prognosis of your pet's disease.

- Excellent - Good - Poor - Grave

3. Does the dog have limited mobility?

- Can walk
- Can't walk properly
- Completely immobile

4. What do you think your dog would want?

- To live
- To not live

5. Do you have the financial resources to care for your dog?

- Can you afford the veterinary bills?
- Can you afford time for their care?

6. Are you keeping your dog alive more for you?

- Yes
- No

ARGUMENTS

Death is not a harm	Death is a harm
Only Quality Matters: - Every pet parent must ensure healthy happy life for their pet	Lost opportunity:- Death forecloses valuable opportunities that continued life would give
Nature of pet's consciousness: - Animals can't perceive or anticipate death nor do they have long-term plans, hopes and desires that can be thwarted by death.	Right to live:- Animals have a strong moral claim to continued life, regardless of their ability to perceive death.

11.2 Legality

This [document](#), furnished by the Animal Welfare Board of India, covers details regarding the conditions, processes, prohibited techniques, and the legality of euthanising your pets in India.



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