



# BE A FRIEND TO YOUR PET...

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## BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER

### Tips for Keeping Your Pets Safe & Finding Lost Pets

#### Preventive Measures

- Make sure your house and yard are secure and your dogs cannot get out; always check to make sure you have closed all doors and gates when you leave the house and your pets are secure.
- Walk your dogs on a leash.
- Put a name tag on your pet's collar with your contact information (phone number, address, etc.) on it.
- License your dogs in the city or county where you live and put the license tag on your pet's collar.
- Register your cat with your city or county, if they offer that service.
- Have a microchip implanted in your pet and be sure to register the chip with your contact information; update the information if it changes.

#### If Your Pet Goes Missing

- Go to all of the local animal shelters surrounding the area where your pet went missing immediately.
- Visit the shelters to see if your pet has been picked up...do not rely on anybody else to "spot" your pet in a busy shelter environment...look for yourself...and check back daily.
- Post your own "Lost" flyer with a photograph of your pet near your house.
- Check Petharbor.com and Petfinder.com daily.
- Spread the word via the internet and social media so others know to look for your missing pet.

### Tips for Keeping Your Pets Happy and Healthy

#### Guidelines for Responsible Pet Ownership

Owning a pet is a joy and a privilege; however, the benefits of pet ownership come with obligations. For the health and welfare of your pet, please follow these guidelines:

- Recognize that ownership of pet requires an investment of time and money, and lifetime commitment.
- Provide appropriate food, water, shelter, health care and companionship.
- Ensure your pets are properly identified (i.e., tags, microchips, or tattoos) and that registration information in associated databases is kept up-to-date.
- Provide a secure house and yard so your pets do not get loose.
- Follow local ordinances, including licensing and leash requirements.
- Take pets to a veterinarian on a regular basis and provide preventive care (e.g., vaccinations, parasite control).
- Socialize and train your pets for their well-being and the well-being of other animals and people.
- Provide exercise and mental stimulation that is appropriate for the age and condition of your pet.
- Make alternative arrangements if caring for your pet is no longer possible.