

CARING FOR DOGS



Recommendations

Sponsored by

The Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals

Basic Dog Care

- Dogs should have reasonable access to clean water daily.
- Dogs should be fed at least once a day to develop and maintain a healthy body condition.
- If the dog is tied or caged outside, they should have shelter available to protect them from the elements.

Important: Limiting a dog's time out to short relief trips is best in extreme weather. Consider breed, age and health of dog when outside. Thinly furred, elderly, very young, or ill dogs, and those kept primarily as housedogs should not be left outside for extended periods in very cold weather because they are less able to withstand the cold. Short nosed or heavily coated dogs, as well as very young, senior or ill dogs should be monitored extra carefully outside during summer heat.

Keeping Dogs Outside

It is not recommended that dogs be kept outside 24 hours, 7 days a week because dogs by nature are social "pack" animals and have a psychological need to be with their human pack. However, if for some reason a dog is kept outside, the owner must make sure the dog has shelter that meets the following standards:

"Shelter", according to NH Law, means any natural or artificial area which provides protection from the direct sunlight and provides adequate air circulation. It allows the dog to remain clean and dry while having the ability to stand up, turn around and lie down. It should be of proportionate size to allow the natural body

heat of the dog to be retained during cold weather.

Food and Water

- To ensure the dog's water doesn't spill, it is recommended that a water bucket be securely attached upright within reach or a spill-proof bowl used.
- If a dog is housed outside, food should be increased during the winter months to provide the extra calories necessary for warmth, and water should be monitored to prevent freezing.

Tethering or Tying a Dog Outside

NH law requires confinement to the owner's property unless under control of the owner. The ideal situation is a fenced in area or kennel, but this may not be possible. As an alternative to a standard tie out, an overhead run with a long cable fastened to two end points can be put in place. The tether for the dog runs freely back and forth along the overhead cable allowing for more exercise than a standard tie out.

Possible Problems With Tethering

- Chains or tie outs may tangle resulting in injury or keep the dog from shelter or water.
- Dogs are not protected from attack by other animals.
- Dogs may be left open to teasing by passersby.
- Chafing of collars and harnesses should be checked for regularly. If an owner forgets to check a growing dog's collar, it may become imbedded in the dog's neck.

Additional Recommendations

- Dogs should have yearly veterinary exams to monitor their health and to provide care as needed including preventative vaccines, fecal exams, heartworm and other tests, and preventive prescriptions. A current rabies vaccination is **required** by law for the dog's protection and public safety.
- Dogs are **required** to be licensed yearly.
- If a dog is a pet, owners should have their dogs spayed or neutered. This prevents the birth of unwanted litters, lowers licensing fees, prevents certain health problems, and may reduce desire to roam. NH Animal Population Control Program (Low cost spay neuter program for income eligible individuals) can be reached at 603-271-3697 or www.nh.gov/agric/divisions/animal_industry

Possible Signs of Illness, Neglect, or Intentional Cruelty

Appearance of Animal

Dull hair coat; thin (ribs showing, sunken-in flanks); hair loss; diarrhea; coated in feces or urine; chronic cough; heavy flea or tick infestation, hair loss and scabs; bare ear tips and other body areas; untreated open sores or wounds; large tumors; collar imbedded in skin; ingrown nails.

Housing Conditions

No evidence that dog has been fed or has access to water; spoiled food; no shelter from elements.

Behavior

Listless; depressed—the animal does not respond to attention or show interest in food or drink.

Reporting Cruelty

Animal cruelty should be reported to the police department of the town in which the animal lives. Please leave your name and contact information so that a follow-up response may be made.

Additional Resources

American Animal Hospital Association

www.healthypet.com/petcare

American Veterinary Medical Association

http://www.avma.org/animal_health/

Denver Dumb Friends League: Behavior Tips

<http://www.ddfl.org/education/dog-behavior-tips>

For more information about animal cruelty, visit

www.humane.nh.gov

Be sure to view the **Interactive Presentation** on the **Welcome Page**.