

The 5 Welfare Needs of Dogs




Behaviour



Dogs need lots of exercise every day to keep them happy and healthy. Daily walks are vital - every dog needs the chance to get out of their home patch and run, sniff and explore! Playtime with safe toys is important too - can you save some time to play with your pooch and their fave toys every day? Just remember - no sticks, as they can injure our canine companions!



Company



Dogs are pack animals, so most of the time, they enjoy the company of other dogs - and humans, of course! Dogs can be left alone in a safe space at home - but for no more than 4 hours in one go. When you do leave your dog alone, try to give them something fun to do while you're out - something like a puzzle feeder or KONG toy stuffed with tasty treats!

Diet



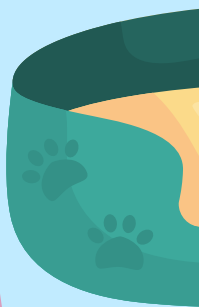
Dogs need to eat a 'complete' diet - that means it contains everything they need to stay healthy! It's important that it's matched to their age too (puppies should eat puppy food so they can grow properly, adult dogs should eat adult food and so on!). Treats are lovely to give, but if your dog has quite a few, give them a little less breakfast or dinner so that they don't put weight on!



Environment



As with all pets, your pooch's home needs to be free from anything that could be poisonous or cause any harm. A nice comfy bed is important too - somewhere quiet, that they can take time out for a snooze whenever they want, and with enough space so they can curl up or stretch out, depending on how they feel! And it goes without saying they'll need constant access to fresh water, shelter when they need it, and a home that's just the right temperature!



Health



How can you keep your dog fighting fit? There are lots of ways! Vaccinations, flea, tick and worm treatments, microchipping and they need to be neutered (to stop them having babies!). Pet insurance is also a really good idea - so no matter what happens, you know you can always give your four-legged friend the very best care!

