

ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LANESVILLE

1849 Highway 11 Lanesville, IN 47136 (812) 952-3643

Basic Pet Care

By Dr. Rene Wingerter

We want you to enjoy your pet and for them to have a long and healthy life. To help achieve this goal we recommend that you follow these basic pet care rules:

Rule #1: Keep your pet in your own yard.

Keeping your pet properly confined can protect him from such terrible accidents as being hit by a car, attacked by other animals, shot or poisoned. Even if you think your pet never leaves the yard, a good fence can keep other animals out which will protect him from injury and most infectious diseases, plus keep the neighbors happy.

Rule #2: Keep your pet properly vaccinated.

All dogs and cats need a Rabies vaccination every year (or every 3 years with the new vaccine) whether they are kept indoors or out. There are other important vaccinations such as Parvo, Kennel Cough and Lyme Disease for dogs and Upper Respiratory and Leukemia for cats.

Rule #3: Give your pet access to food, water and shelter.

Leaving your pet outdoors in cold winter weather without adequate shelter is dangerous. They also need shade in the summer to prevent heat stroke. Keep clean, unfrozen water available and feed the best quality name brand food you can afford.

Rule #4: Keep your pet free of parasites.

Parasite control includes Heartworm prevention, flea, tick, ear mite and intestinal worm control for both dogs and cats. About 50% of our pets are infected with parasites. Having a pet full of worms or fleas is not only unhealthy for the pet but also unsanitary for people.

Rule #5: Have your pet spayed or neutered.

Having your pet spayed or neutered not only prevents some common cancers and infections, but it also helps with the pet overpopulation crisis. It will also make you both happier since altered pets have fewer behavior and health problems.

Rule #6: Spend time with your pet.

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Spending “quality time” with your pet is an important part of proper care. He does not need to roam the neighborhood looking for friends; he should have you and your family as his “pack”. This means taking him for walks or playing with him in the house. It also means teaching him some basic house rules. You will enjoy your pet more if you teach him not to jump, bite or scratch. Training your dog to come, sit and lie down can greatly improve your time spent with him.

Our goal is to help you enjoy your pet as much as we enjoy ours and to ensure that your pet is not suffering due to unintentional neglect. If you have any questions be sure to ask us or call the Animal Hospital of Lanesville at 952-3643. 🐾