

# Fact Sheet

## CARING FOR YOUR PETS

Pets are great company, especially when we're unwell or feeling down. To help you care for your pets and understand their needs, we've put together some information.

### CARING FOR YOUR PET DOG

#### Housing your dog

Dogs need a weatherproof kennel. It should be kept clean and dry with washable rugs or blankets for comfort and warmth. A weatherproof kennel protects your dog from wind, rain, the sun, and hot and cold temperatures.

#### Feeding your dog

In general, dogs should be fed twice a day. Breed, age, size, and energy level all factor into how often dogs should eat and how much. Fresh dog food is an increasingly popular alternative to store bought dry kibble and/or wet canned food. However, dry kibble and/or wet canned food is a

nourishing diet for your dog.

**Always make sure your dog has an adequate supply of fresh water.**

#### Exercising and training your dog

Dogs need regular exercise. Walk them at least once a day or let them run in an off-leash dog park. Use positive reinforcement and rewards, like pats and dog treats, to train your dog. Do NOT physically punish your dog, hitting or beating your dog can increase stress, lower your dog's quality of life, and may increase aggression.

#### Health tips for your dog

Your dog needs annual vaccinations and general health checks. Your vet can also advise you about flea, tick and worm prevention. To prevent unplanned or unwanted puppies desex your dog as soon as possible. The Animal Welfare League NSW may be able to help out with

some of the cost of desexing your dog, contact your nearest volunteer branch.

### CARING FOR YOUR PET CAT

#### Housing your cat

Most cats are happy indoors however if you do allow your cat outdoors, bring them inside at night to protect wildlife. Cats are playful so provide your cat with toys to chase, boxes/bags to hide in, a sunny spot to sleep in, places to climb and a scratching post. Your cat will also need access to a litter tray which needs to be cleaned regularly and kept in the same spot away from their food and water.

#### Feeding your cat

In general, cats should be fed twice a day. There are many quality commercial foods available at your local supermarket. **Always make sure your cat has an adequate supply of fresh water.**

## HAVE A PET EMERGENCY

Contact your local vet or visit the RSPCA  
[https://www.rspcansw.org.au/what-we-do/  
disaster-and-alerts/](https://www.rspcansw.org.au/what-we-do/disaster-and-alerts/).

**EMERGENCY  
AFTER HOURS  
REPAIRS NUMBER  
1300 662 721**

### Health tips for your cat

Your cat needs annual vaccinations and general health checks. To prevent unplanned or unwanted kittens desex your cat as soon as possible. The Animal Welfare League NSW may be able to help out with some of the cost of desexing your cat, contact your nearest volunteer branch.

## CARING FOR YOUR PET BIRD

Birds need to be able to spread their wings, so check you have the correct size cage for your bird. The cage should be stainless steel and cleaned every few days. Use natural perches and position cage out of direct sunlight, rain and wind. Feed your bird diet of natural and commercial food. Check what is right for your bird at <https://www.rspcansw.org.au/what-we-do/care-for-animals/birds/>.

## CARING FOR POCKET PETS

If you have a pet other than a dog, cat or bird, such as guinea pigs, rabbits or ferrets visit the RSPCA website for some tips on caring for your pocket pet.

[https://www.rspcansw.org.au/what-we-do/  
carefor-animals/pocket-pets/](https://www.rspcansw.org.au/what-we-do/carefor-animals/pocket-pets/) for some tips on caring for your pocket pet.

## HOMES NORTH PET AGREEMENT

If you have a pet, you need to let Homes North know in writing and sign a Homes North Pet Agreement. Homes North knows how important your pet is to you, and like you, we want to make sure they are well cared for. The Pet Agreement acknowledges you have a pet, you agree to look after your home and the pet appropriately, and if there is an emergency, Homes North is aware that you have a pet at home.

### NEED HELP WITH PET DESEXING?

Contact the Animal Welfare League NSW  
<https://www.awlnsw.com.au/find-us/>.

### IF YOU NOTICE ANIMAL CRUELTY

Please contact Homes North immediately.



### NEED TO CONTACT HOMES NORTH?

Armidale  
(02) 6772 5133

Glen Innes  
(02) 6732 3652

Gunnedah  
(02) 6742 0363

Inverell  
(02) 6722 5137

Moree  
(02) 6752 4440

Tamworth  
(02) 6766 6897

Coledale  
(02) 6765 8879

[www.homesnorth.org](http://www.homesnorth.org)