



PET RESPONSIBILITY TIPS



For Potential Owners...

Pet ownership can be an extremely fulfilling experience, but it carries a lot of responsibility. When considering adopting a pet, here are a few things to think about:



1. Select a pet that suits your lifestyle, your living situation and your family.
2. Make sure you can afford the costs associated with responsibility pet ownership. This includes food, water, proper shelter, medical care, and appropriate licensure.
3. Understand that owning a pet requires you to dedicate the appropriate amount of time and effort to ensure the pet receives proper training, socialization and companionship.
4. Avoid making a rash decision when deciding whether to adopt a pet and about which pet you are going to adopt.

Note to Renters: Always consult your landlord to understand the rules and regulations of pet ownership in your current living situation. Some rentals have restrictions on the pet ownership altogether. Others make pet ownership restrictions by species, breed, and size of animal. Landlords almost always charge a pet deposit fee as well.





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For Current Pet Owners

1. Treat your animal appropriately and with care. Ensure your pet has a proper diet, fresh water, shelter from the elements, and socialization. Do not leave your animal alone for long periods of time, especially in cars, or in your yard, and especially in extreme elements. Hot and cold weather pet care tips can be found on CACC's website at www.adoptchicago.org

2. Spay and Neuter your pet. Do not contribute to pet overpopulation. CACC impounds 20,000 stray, lost, unwanted and injured animals each year. Spaying and neutering your pet is a critical component to limiting the number of homeless and unwanted animals in Chicago. Various community organizations offer free, and low-cost spay/neuter services. These services can also be rendered by your pet's veterinarian.



3. Leash and control your pet. It's against the law for you to allow your pet to be off leash on the public way in Chicago, except for in official dog friendly areas. A list of dog friendly areas can be found at <http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/facilities/dog-friendly-areas/>. Make sure that your animal is under control when on a leash. If your animal has issues with biting or aggression, ensure the animal wears a muzzle or head harness when encountering new animals, people and situations.

4. Be a considerate pet owner. It is against the law for your animal to make continuous excessive noise in your home. If your pet is very vocal, and it is bothering your neighbors consider working with a trainer to minimize the issue.

5. Provide appropriate veterinary care for your animal. This includes preventive treatments such as vaccinations, routine checkups, and resources and a plan in the event emergency treatment is needed for your pet. It is the law that all cats, dogs and ferrets over four months old have a current rabies vaccine. But several other vaccines are critical, especially if your animal encounters other animals frequently, including dog friendly areas and boarding facilities. Consult your veterinarian for more details.

6. Identify your Pet. Ensure you have proper licensure for your pet. In Chicago, all dogs over four months must have a City dog license which can be obtained at <http://chicityclerk.com/dog-registration/>. To use dog friendly areas, you must also have a separate license. Micro chipping your pet is also a great option, so that your pet can still be identified even if his/her leash falls off or is removed.

7. Have a plan for your pet. A plan in the event of a natural disaster is key. But a life plan is equally important. Research your pet to get an estimate of life expectancy and ensure you have a plan for the full life of your pet. Consider your pet when making important decisions, including relocating your home, and travel plans.

