

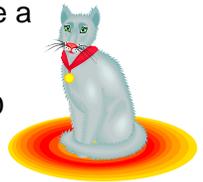


Be A Responsible Pet Owner

You should get your new companion animal from a reputable rescue organization. It is the law that the pet has to already be spayed/neutered and vaccinated for rabies at this time. You should also get the core vaccinations for your dog or cat. Most rescues and shelters will already provide them.

Tips for being a responsible guardian:

- Animals need to be fed once or twice a day.
- Make sure your pet has plenty of clean, fresh water. Water should be changed at least every day.
- Your companion animal should be kept inside.
- When it comes to shelter, remember that animals that are treated like part of the family are better-adjusted and will be more closely bonded to you. And after all, your companion animal IS part of your family, right?
- Dogs need plenty of exercise. Physical activity keeps them healthy, happy, and fit. Make sure you walk, run, hike, or play fetch with your dog every day.
- Cats also love some quality playtime with you. This is a chance to have fun and get creative with cool cat toys.
- Most rescue organizations will provide a medical verifying the animal health at time of adoption. Otherwise you should take him to the vet right away to get checked out when you bring home a new dog or cat.
- It is very good to have your pet micro-chipped, just in case it gets lost. Having a collar with ID tag with your name and telephone number is very helpful.



Spaying and Neutering

Did you know that each day in the U.S., an average of 70,000 puppies and kittens are born? As long as these birth rates exist, there will never be enough homes for all the animals. The result is that each day, American animal shelters are forced to destroy approximately 30,000 dogs and cats.

In Clark County, **IT'S THE LAW** that you must get your companion animal spayed or neutered.

What is spaying and neutering?

The terms "spaying" and "neutering" mean the surgical removal of a pet's reproductive organs. Basically, when an animal gets spayed or neutered it will no longer be able to have babies. "Spaying" applies to female animals and "neutering" is used with males. Most people focus on the importance of spaying and neutering dogs and cats, but rabbits are also animals that benefit from this.

How expensive is it? What if my family can't afford it?

Cost depends on cat/dog, male/female, and dog breed and weight. There are often specials for Pit Bulls and Chihuahuas. If you need assistance with spay/neutering, including financial assistance or locating a clinic near you, please contact the LVVHS Spay/Neuter Coordinator, Sandy, at 702-217-6355.



Modified from: <http://pbskids.org/itsmylife>
Copyright © 2005 CastleWorks, Inc. All rights reserved.

