

Published based on [A Dog's Basic Needs](#)

# **A Dog's Basic Needs**

If you've just adopted a dog then I'd like to thank you for giving this wonderful animal a second chance in life. But with the joy that your new companion brings there is also a lot of responsibility, and many things you will need to take care of.

In this article we discuss five basic things that every dog needs. This is not an all-inclusive list, but if you cover these five areas, you'll have gone a long way towards being the best guardian you can be.

### The Best Nutrition

Let's start off by talking about nutrition. In this regard, you have three broad options, you can cook for your dog, you can feed your dog a raw diet, or you can feed your dog a dry kibble. Due to time constraints the vast majority of dog owners will opt for feeding their dogs a pre-packaged kibble. This is a perfectly sound choice, provided the product you choose meets your dogs nutritional needs. Not all kibble brands are good, so you may want to discuss this with your veterinarian before deciding.

### Medical Care

Your dog's health is your responsibility, from the initial puppy shots to annual check-ups and booster vaccinations. You also need to consider whether you can afford to pay for intensive veterinary care should your dog suffer an injury or become seriously ill. The cost can be exorbitant, so it is strongly advised that you take out a pet health insurance policy.

### Physical Activity

It doesn't matter whether your dog is a couch potato or a jack-in-the-box, he needs his exercise. Make sure you have the time to provide it and the energy to keep up with him.

Choose a breed that matches your own level of activity and time availability. Don't, for example, choose a dog that needs hours of activity per day if all you can spare is 30 minutes. You're just setting yourself up for a major problem.

Training Like exercise, all dogs need at least basic obedience training, and most dogs actually enjoy learning new things. Training provides your dog with mental stimulation, discipline and exercise. It teaches him his place in the pack and contributes to bonding.

Use a proven methodology, like clicker training, to train your dog. And always use a positive, reward-based approach.

### Love, Affection and Companionship

Dogs are pack animals used to living in a social structure. They are only happy when they can interact with others. Depriving your dog of companionship and affection is incredibly cruel. He needs to be close to his family, not locked outside on his own.

By addressing your dog's needs in these five areas you'll be giving your him the life he deserved. The payoff? A lifetime of fun, joy and companionship with your best friend.

If you want to discover more about [dog obedience training](#), dog care, [information on dogs](#) and other helpful dog info visit <http://www.dogsanddogtraining.com>

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