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  TAILS Lantau

DOG CARE BASICS

Thank you for giving your time, attention and love to one of our rescue dogs. Here's a brief refresher on basic dog care. Please get in touch with any concerns or questions.

We are happy to offer support!

DIET

There are various reputable types and brands of food available that provide a healthy, balanced diet to our dogs. Dogs are omnivores and can thrive on a range of diets. Different dogs have different needs: It is best to research what diet best suits the needs and lifestyle of your dog. Typically, dogs should be fed an amount appropriate for their weight at least twice a day, but this may vary with age, activity level, health, and other factors. Here are a few things that can be **dangerous and deadly** to dogs that you should **not** feed: Chocolate, raisins, grapes, onions, garlic, corn on the cob, cooked bones, xylitol (artificial sweetener, in some processed foods). This list is not exhaustive; if you are unsure about other foods, please check with your vet.

EXERCISE

Dogs need to get regular daily exercise. We recommend at minimum three walks per day of 30 minutes each. Walks are not just good to keep our dogs fit and healthy, but our dogs also prefer to do their business outside of their 'cave'. Thus, regular pee/poo breaks are important for their house-training. Besides, walks provide a range of interesting smells, sights, socialization, and other experiences that will keep our dog excited about the world. Dogs who do **not** get sufficient exercise and toilet breaks may suffer from both health and behavioural problems, including cardiovascular disease, urinary tract infections, joint problems, chewing, aggression, fatigue, etc.

HEALTH & DOG LICENSE

At the age of 5 months, dogs are **required by law** to be microchipped and licensed with a rabies vaccination. This needs to be renewed every three years. Dogs are also recommended to receive an annual health checkup, including the annual DHPPiL vaccination booster. Furthermore, dogs best receive regular prevention against fleas, ticks, parasites, and heartworm. These can be given at home on a monthly basis or as recommended by your vet. It is our policy that all our rescue animals are de-sexed at 5-6 months of age.

SOCIALIZATION

It is crucial for dogs to be able to spend time with other dogs to play and socialize. They may also like other species and love having their pack around at home - this includes their humans. Dogs should **not** be left alone, caged or tied up for long periods of the day: This can make them feel anxious and lonely. Instead, we may take the time to give our dogs plenty of attention, and learn their language, likes and dislikes. They will further benefit from a calm area in which they feel safe and withdraw to when needed.

TRAINING

Training is one way of socializing with our dogs. Not only can this keep our dogs mentally active, but it also strengthens our bond with them. Plus, it can make life less stressful and safer. For example, training our dogs to walk calmly on a lead, come back when called, feel calm in a crate, or accept a short-term muzzle can be important for circumstances in which these may be required.