

## Mother Nature's Requirements

Dogs have survived and prospered over many centuries, many with mankind's help. Their inherent urges to reproduce cause dogs to "seasonally" behave very differently, much like adolescent humans. These urges are controllable by spaying and neutering your dog.

Permitting your dog to have a litter to "show the kids the facts of life" is not an acceptable practice. There are too many homeless pets that fill shelters with dogs looking for good homes.

Consult with your veterinarian on spaying your female or neutering your male dog. Once you have done this, it becomes even easier to be a **RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER**. There are many resources in the community that provide low cost spay/neuter assistance.

Dogs are inherently pack animals, meaning they like canine companionship and their "pecking order" is determined amongst themselves. This extends to neighborhood dogs and other animals in your home.

## LAWS and YOUR Dog

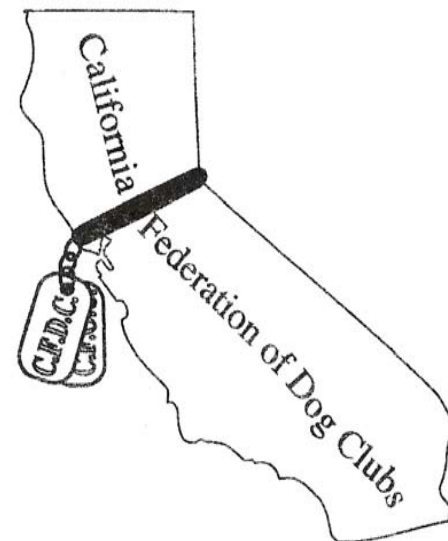
Most locations require you to keep your dog on a leash when outside your property unless in an area designated as an "off-leash" area. Other laws may require rabies vaccinations, control of your dog so it will not be a nuisance in the community as well as specific laws regarding aggressive dogs.

## Activities and Enjoyment

There are many activities available to enjoy with your dog. Some of these activities are: obedience training and trials, agility, conformation dog shows, field trials hound "scent/sight" trials, working dog weight pulls, herding, backpacking, dog scootering, sledding and one of the newer organized activities "flyball."

Being a **RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER** can be a fun activity for the entire family, human and canine.

## RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP



### CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF DOG CLUBS

PO Box 2341  
Lancaster, CA 93539  
[www.cfodconline.org](http://www.cfodconline.org)

### California Federation of Dog Clubs

PO Box 2341  
Lancaster, CA 93539  
[www.cfodconline.org](http://www.cfodconline.org)

## Select the Right Breed

1. Consider your habits, available space, family patterns and schedules and the time available for dog feeding, training, care and exercise.
2. Investigate various breeds for characteristics that match your available resources, family circumstances and time.
3. Purebred dogs are bred for consistent physical characteristics. Conscientious breeders are a wealth of information about their breeds.
4. Decide whether you are looking for a puppy or an adult dog. Puppies are cute, but adults may require less initial training.
5. You are selecting a dog to be your companion for the life of the dog. Please remember this important fact.

## Select the Right Source

1. National and local dog breed clubs have referrals to member-breeders who have accepted their Code of Ethics.
2. Contact the breeders, visit their kennel, ask questions, request references and see the parents if possible.
3. Breed Rescue organizations and animal shelters are good sources of adult dogs looking for good homes. Check them out.

## Essentials for Training

A leash and collar are musts for obedience training! A cage or crate aids in house training. Chew toys give a dog something appropriate to chew.

"The one absolutely unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world...is his dog...When all other friends desert, he remains. When riches take wings and reputations fall to pieces, he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens."

*Senator Vest 1844 Congressional Record*

A grooming table gives you a place to groom your dog, accustom them to being handled and prepares him for veterinary visits.

A brush correct for the dog's coat and a comb are necessary for proper grooming and coat maintenance. Talk to your dog's breeder or call your local groomer to find out how often your dog needs to go in for professional grooming.

Nutritional treats are a great reward during training. Verbal praise is the best reward! Consistency is a must!!!

A collar and ID tag should be worn for your pet's safety and in case of emergencies. Microchipping is now available to aid in your pet's safe return home if he should become lost.

## Nutrition and Health Care

Have a regular feeding schedule for your dog, using a healthy, balanced dog food. Provide clean, fresh water daily.

Visit your veterinarian for information regarding vaccinations and medications your dog may need.

Keep your dog free of internal and external parasites.

## Contain and Restrain

Keep your dog in a fenced yard or area for its own protection.

Use your dog's leash and collar at all times when walking your dog. Do not let your dog take you for a walk. You are in control of the walk. Dog training books and videos are available to assist you in training your dog.

Please remember to have a pooper-scooper or bags available at all times to clean your yard as well as cleaning up after your dog when you take him for walks.

## Exercise your Responsibility

Teach your children and their friends not to tease, taunt, or mistreat your dog. At the same time, train your dog to accept other dogs and people. Do not forget "children are people too." If you have no children, encourage your friends to bring their children over. Your dog will then get used to children. Socializing your dogs is very important.

Dogs bark to express themselves. Your dog needs your training to learn when it is OK to bark and when it is not. Your neighbors will appreciate your training and so will your dog.