

What your dog needs

Claire Corridan



What your dog needs

There are some basic requirements that will help keep your dog healthy and happy and will help you to live together in harmony.

Nutrition

- Your dog needs reliable access to the right amount of food appropriate for their lifestage and water.

Toileting

- All dogs should have regular and reliable access to an appropriate area where they can eliminate (go to the toilet).
- Age, neutering status, health, diet and individual variation will influence how often they need to eliminate (go to the toilet).
- Very young or senior dogs may need more frequent access and monitoring.

Shelter and resting areas

- Your dog should have an easily identifiable bed or lying area where he/she can rest or be left uninterrupted.
- A secure outdoor environment, such as a fenced garden/yard, must be provided. If away from home, you will need to supervise the dog if he/she is off the lead.

Exercise

- This should be provided on a regular basis and can include walks and play.
- When outdoors, your dog should be confined securely or on a lead/under your control if in a public area.
- Requirements will vary depending on your dog's age, breed, health status and motivation.

continues ►

What your dog needs

continued

Chews

- Oral exploration of the environment is important. Puppies and adults should be provided with appropriate things to chew, such as chew toys.
- All chew toys should be checked frequently to be sure they are still safe to use.

Treats and rewards

- Food treats are effective for rewarding good behaviour and can be used in training.
 - This can be done within the daily food allowance.
 - The use of highly valued treats can be added from time to time.
- Some dogs prefer praise (physical or vocal) or favoured toys.

Petting

- Stroking your dog has beneficial effects for both you and your dog.
- It is important to keep in mind that some dogs will like or need contact more than others.

Independence

- Teaching your puppy or dog how to settle and relax in his/her own space will also encourage independence and calm behaviours.

Training and structured activities

- Household rules must be clearly conveyed to the dog using verbal and/or visual cues, so he/she understands what is required.
- Rules must be reinforced consistently, by all members of your household and by visitors where possible.