

A pet is for life. Think before you adopt or buy, we all have a serious litter problem. Shelters are not able to take in all abandoned and/or unwanted animals as there are limitations. It is not good to send them to shelters as shelters are not the best environment to shut them for life. Don't indulge in one if you think you cannot commit. Shelters exist only to help owners temporarily.

### Behavior and Training



older animal.

Many owners abandon / surrender their companion animals because of behavioral problems. These can be overcome. Owners should consider bringing their animals to training classes at an early age as possible. It is usually too late to correct established problems in an

### Let's Teach Our Children to Respect Life

Owners are reminded to behave responsibly

1. Clean up your pet's poo whenever it messes in public area. Always carry a plastic bag with you when you walk your dog.



2. Leash dogs at all times in public places.
3. Manage your pet properly so as to avoid causing a nuisance to others

We have a large stray dog/cat population and this contributes significantly to the number of unwanted animals born each year.



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## **RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP BEGINS @ HOME**



Welcoming a dog/cat into your home is a huge responsibility. Adopting them into your home is accepting a 10-15 years commitment. Bear in mind, this commitment will substantially change

your way of life. Are you ready for that? If you are, think carefully about your time. Are you willing and/or able to spend money to maintain your pet's health and give them the best day to day care. What are you willing to sacrifice? They need the space too. Your environment is important too. Consider the place you dwell in. How much space are you willing to give to your pet? Is it to be confined most of the time or are you able to allow space for your pet to roam the house all over. We urge you to read further and understand your responsibility as an owner.

### **Every responsible pet owner has to endure and observe the 5 FREEDOMS:**

1. **Freedom from discomfort** – ensure comfortable cages or resting areas.

2. **Freedom from hunger and thirst** – enough good food and fresh water daily to keep the animals healthy
3. **Freedom from pain, injury and disease** – seek vet treatment if they are ill
4. **Freedom to express normal behavior** – provide enough space and company
5. **Freedom from fear and distress** – give treatment that avoids mental suffering.

If you have given serious thought to this, you are likely one of the most RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER in society.

### First Step that one should do

Before taking your pet home, the very first thing you should do is to visit a veterinarian of your choice. Choose a veterinarian, who can provide you with your pet's need.



1. Get a health check done
2. Make sure that your new pet is dewormed and free from ticks and fleas. Ticks can kill your pet.

3. Get it vaccinated especially when it is of age as advised by your veterinarian
4. Find out when you can neuter your pet to prevent unwanted litters. You will be surprised not all owners know how to confirm their pet's gender, but to feel disappointed after accepting adoption.

### Licensing & micro chipping

It is statutory that any dog at age 3 months and above, should be licensed. Though at the moment the law does not require compulsory micro chipping, it is advised to do so for the following reasons:



1. For legality purpose, when it gets lost and picked up, you can argue that you are the rightful owner. Every chip has a number which enables the owner to reunite with their pets should they become lost.
2. It will not be 'put to sleep' immediately when caught by the authorities till the owner is found, though it will be deemed as a stray when caught.

### Neutering Saves Lives



We have a large stray dog / cat population and this contributes significantly to the number of unwanted/animals born each year. Animals of both gender (male & female) should be neutered as and when they come of age as advised by your veterinarian.

Every year the SPCA and other animal shelters received hundreds of abandoned / unwanted animals. Many are too weak /sick/diseased and as such, not able to survive. Please do not underestimate an animal's reproductive ability.

A dog if left unneutered can be responsible for 4000 over dogs by the 10th year of its breeding life. A female cat can produce up to 20 kittens each year. Imagine us having to accept the problems left behind by irresponsible pet owners. An altered pet has lots of benefits. The animal will be calmer in temperament, better behaved and reduced the risk of developing certain diseases such as prostate and uterine cancer.