



pet ownership **AND YOU**

Owning a pet is a privilege, but the benefits of pet ownership come with responsibilities.

- **Avoid impulsive decisions** when selecting a pet.
- Select a pet that's suited to your **home and lifestyle**.
- Keep only the type and number of pets for which you can provide appropriate **food, water, shelter, healthcare and companionship**.
- **Commit to the relationship** for the life of your pet(s).
- Recognize that pet ownership requires an investment of **time and money**.
- Make sure your pet receives **preventive healthcare** (vaccinations, parasite control, etc.) as well as care for any illnesses or injuries.
- Provide appropriate **exercise** and mental stimulation.
- **Clean up** after your pet.
- Don't allow your pet to stray or become **feral**.
- Properly **train and socialize** your pet.
- **Limit your pet's reproduction** through spay/neuter, containment or managed breeding.
- **Obey all local ordinances**, including licensing, leash requirements and noise control.
- Make sure your pet is **properly identified** (i.e., tags, microchips or tattoos) and keep its registration up to date.
- Prepare for an **emergency or disaster**, including assembling an evacuation kit.
- Make **alternate arrangements** if you can no longer provide care for your pet.
- Recognize any decline in your pet's quality of life and make **timely decisions** in consultation with a veterinarian.