



Dog Adopter Tips: The Bare Necessities

Water & Food

Dogs should always have access to a fresh and clean bowl of water, and will drink throughout the day. If your dog begins drinking excessively, it may be a sign of stress or illness, so please consult with your vet if you notice this change.

Dogs thrive on a diet that includes both meat and plant sources. High-quality foods, made in the USA with whole, recognizable ingredients will help keep them healthy and strong. Avoid byproducts, as well as wheat and corn if possible, since they are only used as filler. Many quality foods are available for a range of budgets, so ask your local pet store for recommendations, and always read the ingredients before you buy.

Be sure to feed your dog only as much as instructed, based on their weight and age, on their bag or can of food. Since many dogs do best when they have a regular routine, schedule your dog's meals (2-3 times a day).

Make sure to regularly clean their food and water bowls to prevent bacteria from growing. Otherwise you'll notice a slimy film that you can't see, but you can feel. Also, do not feed your dog directly out of a can, since the sharp edges can cut their tongue.

Human food

Most human food should not be given to dogs – especially chocolate, raisins/grapes, avocado, garlic, onion, citrus, nuts, caffeine or alcohol, which can be harmful or even fatal. However, carrots and small amounts of meat (bones removed) without salt or spices are fine as a treat.

If in doubt, play it safe and stick to food and treats made especially for dogs!