

Here are some straightforward answers to important questions about your dog.

How much should I feed my dog? Your dog's diet will depend on her age, size, and health. Check with your vet if you have any concerns about your dog's eating habits. The amount you feed will depend on the type/brand of food you use and your dog's age, activity level, and metabolism. Start with the recommendation on the bag, but be prepared to adjust the amount of food up or down if your dog is gaining or losing too much weight (the amount suggested on the bag is frequently more than an average dog needs). Even adult dogs do not always eat the same amount of food throughout their lives. It's easy to get in the habit of thinking you should always feed the same amount, but it's OK to change the amount you feed as your dog's needs change. In general, feed puppies 2-4 months old three or four times daily; feed puppies 4-6 months old two or three times daily; and feed puppies 6 months of age through adulthood twice daily. To help with housetraining, don't leave food out all day.



Should I leave water out for my dog all the time? Yes, yes, yes!! Wash and refill the water bowl daily. If you will be out for a long time and don't want to leave a bowl full of water, leave a bowl of solid ice (not cubes, use an old plastic - not metal-- bowl that the dog can't chew up). The ice will melt slowly and your dog will have water throughout the day. This works especially well if your dog tends to spill her water when left alone. Puppies, especially, have high metabolisms and need a lot of water. If you think your dog is drinking too much water, have your vet check her - many problems ranging from urinary tract infections to more serious problems such as kidney disease or diabetes can cause increased water drinking.

My dog has all her shots, why does she need to go to the vet? Many pets arrive at MHS with fleas, ear and/or skin problems, worms, and other parasites. Treatments for these problems can require repeated dosing, be long-term, and/or are not always completely effective, despite our best efforts. Other problems might not show up until after the pet goes to a new home. You have been given a copy of your dog's records showing what problems were identified and treatments given while at MHS. Take the copy to your veterinarian and ask your vet about the best treatment and prevention for these and other problems. Schedule this in conjunction with a "get-to-know" first physical exam for your dog so that your vet can meet and assess the newest member of your family. In addition, make sure you ask your vet about routine preventive health measures for your dog, including vaccinations, heartworm and other blood tests, deworming and heartworm prevention, nutrition, and exercise.

How often should I take my dog to the vet? Your dog will need to see the vet at least once a year for the rest of her life for a routine annual exam. This helps to identify problems your dog might not have been able to tell you about and to ensure she is, and stays, as healthy as possible. In addition, vaccines given at these annual visits help to protect your pet from viral diseases like Canine Distemper and Parvovirus, as well as diseases such as kennel cough and Lyme disease. Rabies vaccinations are required by law to protect people and pets. All dogs need heartworm tests, generally done in the spring, and heartworm prevention (we recommend year-round prevention to help control internal parasites as well as prevent heartworm disease). Fecal exams can identify parasites that your dog might have picked up from sniffing, or eating, things out in the yard, play area, or woods. Your vet can recommend appropriate flea



□ Monadnock Humane Society, 101 West Swanzey Road, Swanzey, NH 03466 □ (603) 352-9011

and tick control products for your dog. As your dog gets older, yearly blood work to help screen for early signs of diseases such as kidney or liver disease can identify problems before physical signs appear. Your vet will work with you to determine what vaccine and testing schedule is appropriate for your dog. *If your dog ever acts strangely or appears to be sick, call your vet immediately.*

Where do I get a license for my dog? Your town clerk sells dog licenses, which are required by law. Take your dog's rabies certificate with you (the rabies tag is not sufficient proof). Licensing costs less for spayed or neutered pets so bring your adoption paperwork and/or spay/neuter certificate with you too. MHS now offers the residents of Keene the benefit of obtaining or renewing their dog license(s) at the shelter. See an Adoption Counselor for details.

Give your dog a free ticket home! Be sure to keep your dog's 24-Hour PetWatch and MHS ID tags on her at all times. If it is ever lost or worn out, MHS will replace her tag for free. Keep MHS and 24-Hour PetWatch up-to-date on your current phone number(s) and address, so we'll be able to contact you if your dog is found. You might also want to get an ID tag with your name and phone number, so whoever finds your dog can contact you directly, day or night.



□ Monadnock Humane Society, 101 West Swanzey Road, Swanzey, NH 03466 □ (603) 352-9011