

# Be a Responsible Pet Owner!



"In life  
the firmest friend,  
the first to welcome,  
foremost to defend."

-Lord Byron

Providing for your pet's physical needs and caring for it with love and commitment are the first requirements of a responsible pet owner. But they are not the last! You can't reasonably or responsibly ignore the impact your pet can have on your neighbors.

Following are some of the laws governing pets in the Denver metro area and a few common-sense rules to keep your neighbors happy and your pet safe and in good standing with your community. You'll want to check with your local animal control agency for the specific regulations in your community.

- ◆ ALWAYS clean up after your pet and dispose of the waste in a sanitary manner.
- ◆ Keep your dog on a leash at all times when not on your property.
- ◆ Help your cat live a longer and healthier life by keeping it indoors, away from situations where it could create a nuisance or be in danger.
- ◆ Ensure that your dog or cat is licensed and wearing an identification tag at all times.
- ◆ Obey local animal nuisance laws which define "excessive noise" as continuous or incessant for a period of ten minutes or intermittently for one-half hour.
- ◆ Have your dog, cat or rabbit spayed or neutered to improve its health and behavior, and to prevent pet overpopulation.
- ◆ Provide your pet with appropriate exercise and attention, and make suitable arrangements for the same when planning to be away.
- ◆ Keep a pet portfolio that includes: proof of licensing, proof of spay or neuter, current records of vaccinations and veterinary care, obedience school diplomas, references from previous property owners/managers and emergency information.
- ◆ If you're a prospective resident, impress upon your potential property owner/manager your knowledge of the laws governing pets in the Denver metro area and your practice of responsible pet ownership.

There is no one characteristic alone which demonstrates responsibility, but the qualities listed can usually be found in responsible pet owners, and many are the same characteristics found in good residents.



**DENVER DUMB FRIENDS LEAGUE**