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.