

Diet & Food

The choice of food is a very important one for all animals. It needs to be species and life stage specific and ensure that your pet receives all the nutrients it requires to grow into an adult and maintaining good health throughout their lives. A good quality food can be expensive but in the long-term, a worthwhile investment.



The Animal Welfare Act 2006

Section 9—Five Welfare Needs

1. The need for a suitable environment.
2. The need for a suitable diet.
3. The need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns.
4. The need to be housed with, or apart, from other animals.
5. The need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/whatwedo/endcruelty/changingthelaw/whatwechanged/animalwelfareact>

Consulting Times

Hillock Lane Surgery

Monday to Friday
8.30am to 7pm

Saturday
8.30am to 1pm



Blackpool Surgery

Monday to Friday
8.30am to 6pm

Why not download our new app, PetsApp. Order medication, book an appointment, ask for advice, send pictures, pay for products and services and much, much more!

Hillock Lane



Blackpool



Should I Become A Pet Owner?

Rowan Veterinary Centre

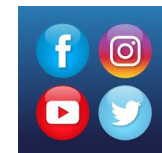
**Hillock Lane
Freckleton
Preston
Lancashire
PR4 1TP**

01772 639800

**The Old Bank
369 Whitegate Drive
Blackpool
FY3 9PH**

01253 766352

www.rowanvets.co.uk



Responsible Pet Ownership

What thoughts come to mind when you think about the term “responsible pet ownership?”

It means different things to different people and although there is no single “right way”, there are several key components to it.

Can you Meet a Pet's Needs?

Are you capable of meeting a pet's needs? Deciding to own an animal is not that dissimilar to deciding to have a child. You are taking on a living being that will depend upon you for every single thing. The main difference is that a child will become self sufficient in adulthood, whereas a pet requires you to take care of it forever. Pet ownership is a **SERIOUS** commitment that should never be entered into lightly.



Your children may beg you to get a cat or a dog, but consider whether your family is ready to accept the responsibilities this brings. If not,

perhaps you could ease them into pet ownership with a fish or a hamster. These pets still require care and feeding, but the responsibilities are less involved.

Do Your Homework!

The time to think what responsible pet



ownership entails is not after you've succumbed to those cute “puppy dog eyes”, only to discover that the challenges of raising a pet are beyond your emotional, physical or financial capabilities. Cats and dogs often end up in animal shelters or worse, living in a home where they are neglected or unwanted.

Before considering any potential pet, you need to understand what it takes to keep the animal safe, healthy and happy. You need to know what its habits, tendencies and social behaviors are and whether or not they will mesh with your everyday life. Look at the species of pet which might suit your family circumstances best, and also what breed would be a good fit for your family and lifestyle.

Can You Afford a Pet?

Food is only one small part of the financial responsibility of having a pet. A puppy or kitten will need to be neutered and immunized to protect them from diseases. Beyond routine vet care such as annual boosters and health checks and parasite prevention, there may be emergencies and accidents that require extensive care and quite often, considerable expense. Will you be able to pay these unexpected vet bills?



The additional expense of caring for a senior pet is one that most people don't think about when deciding to own a puppy or kitten, but they grow old just like the rest of us, and may require special care.

Do You Have the Time?



It's heartbreaking to see a pet living with people who rarely pay it any attention. Animals need interaction, companionship and love every bit as much as food and water.

Going without these emotional needs does a pet just as much harm and is a key part of responsible ownership.

Taking on a pet at a time of major stress or life changes isn't ideal but life happens so even if your circumstances were stable at the time, invariably life can change so responsible pet ownership means finding a way to help our pets have stability. This might mean enlisting the aid of family or friends, dog walkers, pet sitters or doggie daycare.

Exercise, Socialization & Obedience

These are three essential components of responsible dog ownership that no canine companion should ever go without and even our feline friends need exercise and socialization too but to a lesser extent.

