

Pets- the final stress busters. A long hard day at work and a happy wagging tail waiting for you to come back home. Be it 2 hours, be it 8 hours, the happiness is un-matched and according to me, it just increases as time passes by. So what is it that creates this bond, this love that we speak off. It's the small things we do with our pet and for our pet that creates this affection. The 5 minutes of grooming, the 10 minutes of playing ball and a quick ride in the car and we have a doting pet at our doorstep. Here are a few aspects of dog care irrespective of breed and age that you can do in your free time-

Pet & I

Play

Pets yearn for play. And if it's an unscheduled play, then nothing like it. A quick run in the back yard, a couple of rounds of fetch in the garden, a quick game of hide and seek and you have a pet who comes back to you for more. Such activities stimulate the pets mentally as well as physically. A sufficiently tired dog means, proper meals and a good night's sleep.

But do remember, while playing with a puppy, be very assertive. A puppy play can very quickly become aggressive with a heightened sense of energy. Nipping, growling can very quickly become a part of play and this has to be controlled with immediate positive reinforcement



Training

A dog to be accepted in a social environment must follow certain rules or can be very quickly termed as un-friendly and aggressive.

Though it is now a completely domesticated animal, dogs do have certain tendencies, like jumping to greet people, chewing, biting, chasing, and being possessive over food etc. Such habits can make it difficult for a family when having guests over or while taking the pet out for a walk. And here is where training steps in. With training, we are teaching the pet to live with us harmoniously in a way that is socially acceptable to us.



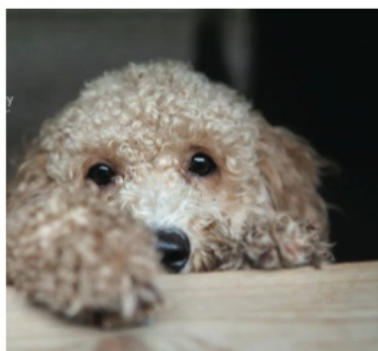
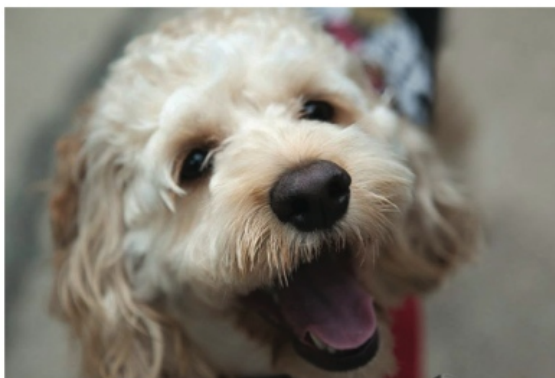
A good training session improves not only the bond being you and your pet but also establishes the alpha. Once the dog understands that you are the alpha, he or she will want to do all that pleases you and training then becomes a cake walk. Training, thus, is a part of mental stimulation. Good communication, positive reinforcement and a great bond between you and your

best four legged friend, what more could he ask for

Grooming

Brushing, teeth brushing, eye care may all seem like a lot on your hands... but they're just a few more ways for you to bond with your best buddy. Grooming today is not just about brushing your dog's hair to take care of the shedding but it encompasses a whole lot more. Today our pets are a part of our family and people are going to great lengths to make them comfortable. Dog Grooming is one very important way of doing it.

It is also one of your pooch's basic need and an important part of pet ownership, pet care and pet maintenance. It may come to you as a surprise, but it does form your pet's physiological and psychological health.



Picture - Prathab K. | Pet name - Bruno, Taurus

A dog's physical state does, to a certain extent, affect the way he feels and acts. Grooming as an activity also helps build an affectionate bond with the owners.

Check with your groomer and choose the right equipment to help maintain the coat on a daily basis.

Toys

Toys are a plenty available in today's market for pets. They serve primarily 2 purposes- as a training tool between the human and the pet and secondly as an effective way of dealing with boredom when the pet is all by himself. Toys should be chosen carefully for your pet. What age is your pet and what purpose is it going to solve are the two question you have to ask yourself. Broadly classified, there are teething toys, chew toys, fetch toys and interactive toys. Kong toys, which are primarily interactive toys, are very good when it comes to keeping your pet occupied. With puppies and adults, it provides good mental stimulation as well.

Quality time

Quality time is the buzz word. Spend that extra 5 minutes with your pet and see what a world of difference it makes to him. Talk to you pet, tell him how your day was. This way he starts understanding your emotions and responds to you in a very different manner. While doing activities with him, focus on him. Don't multi-task. For example, while on a walk, keep your cell phone away. Observe what he is doing, his body language and see how he responds to you. Take him for a joy ride in the car - just like that. This way, he associates the car to be fun and not just something which takes him to the vet.

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