



The Responsible Dog Owner's Pledge

I understand that as a dog owner I have the duty and responsibility to care for my dog and, therefore, pledge to provide him/her with the Five Animal Welfare Needs:

- ❖ I will provide my dog access to fresh clean water, and the right type and amount of food as appropriate to promote my dog's health and vigor.
- ❖ I will provide my dog with a suitable place to live where he/she can feel safe. This shelter will be cleaned regularly, is adequate in space to allow for exercise, and is comfortable for my dog to rest and hide inside.
- ❖ I will protect my dog from pain, suffering, injury and disease, and will seek veterinary care for my dog when necessary to prevent or rapidly diagnose and treat injury or disease.
- ❖ I will provide my dog with opportunities to socialize with other dogs or with other species whenever this is appropriate, and I will provide environmental enrichment through training and other physically and mentally stimulating activities to allow my dog to express his/her normal behaviors.
- ❖ I will be sensitive to my dog's body language and protect my dog from fear and distress. I will not allow that he/she be subjected to undue pain or emotional distress. Where stress is unavoidable, I will attempt to reduce it by actively conditioning my dog for handling, or opting for low-stress handling methods for my dog whenever these are available.

Owner's Printed Name & Signature

Date