


DEAR Families,

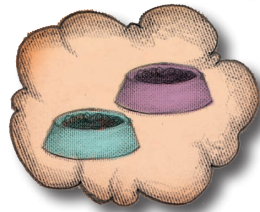



Dogs and cats have lived alongside people for thousands of years - in fact, wherever you find human communities, you will also find cats and dogs. Dogs and cats depend upon people to provide the basic necessities for a happy and healthy life: enough food to eat, water to drink, protection from sun, rain and cold, the freedom to exercise and express natural behaviors and freedom from cruelty, fear and neglect.

We hope you and your child will read through these pages together and make a family promise to **Stand Up for Cats and Dogs!** Post the pledge and check-list on your fridge or family bulletin board to remember the many ways that you can help cats and dogs in your home, your community and beyond!


Care


 **Food and Water** All cats and dogs need food and clean water every day. They need not only enough food, but the right kind of food. While cats need high-protein foods, dogs eat both plants and animals. Feed an adult cat or dog at least once, and ideally twice a day. Puppies and kittens may need five or six small meals a day. Make sure the food is fresh and unspoiled and the dishes are clean.



 **Shelter** Every dog and cat needs a safe haven where they can rest, hide and be protected from the weather and predators. If you build a house for a dog, it needs to be a covered space with a raised floor and at least three walls


to keep out wind, rain, snow, dirt, and the hot sun. In cold places, animals need clean, dry bedding such as blankets or straw. In hot areas, the shelter should be in the shade.


 **Comfort** Dogs and cats don't want to poop or pee in places where they sleep and eat. If your dog is confined to an area such as a large pen or yard, allow enough space to go to the bathroom away from where he sleeps. Cats need a clean litter box or soft ground outside to bury their waste.

 **Medical Care** Like people, cats and dogs need medical care when they are sick. Even healthy cats and dogs should have regular check-ups at the vet, including vaccinations to prevent diseases from spreading to other animals and even to people in the community.




Respect

 **Behavior** Cats and dogs need to be free to behave like...cats and dogs! Dogs need exercise, such as walking, running, and playing every day. Cats also need exercise, which usually takes the form of hunting play. Help your cat get exercise by playing with it and providing a variety of toys. Even a simple wadded up paper ball will have your cat stalking, chasing, and pouncing.

 **Bonding** Dogs need to bond with their "team" to be happy - and that includes you. They need time with people and with other dogs to socialize, play, and learn acceptable



behaviors. Cats, whether shy or social, also need your affection and attention.

 **Understanding** What if your cat or dog behaves in a way that you don't like? Well, just because you may not like a certain behavior doesn't mean it isn't normal. Cats scratch furniture to sharpen or wear down their claws. Dogs naturally bark, dig, jump up, and chase because that is their natural response to things they hear and see. They may chew furniture if they are bored or lonely inside. You can solve these problems but it may mean changing YOUR behavior. Provide cats with a scratching post. Give your dog more exercise and attention, space to dig, and opportunities to play with other dogs.


STAND UP




for **CATS**
and **DOGS!**


We, the _____ family understand that we all have a responsibility to care for the cats and dogs in our homes, our communities and beyond. We promise to do everything we can to respect and protect cats and dogs:


at home

 **Care** for the needs of cats and dogs by providing food, water, shelter, comfort and medical care. We will ensure they have exercise, social interaction, freedom to express normal behavior and freedom from cruelty.

 **Plan carefully** for a new cat or dog so we can commit to caring for it throughout its lifetime.


 **Adopt from a shelter** or rescue group. This is a great way to rescue an animal and provide a future for one who has been abandoned.


 **Don't buy** from puppy "mills," large-scale, and often unlicensed, commercial breeding operations that place making money over the well-being of dogs, who are often cruelly treated and neglected.


 **Spay or neuter** your cats and dogs to help them live longer, healthier lives, have fewer behaviors that may annoy you, be more likely to stay close to home, and less likely to have conflicts with other animals.


in our community


 **Safety first** Use caution when interacting with any animal you don't know.

 **Foster tolerance** From dog parks and water stations to animal-friendly stores and lodgings, there are many ways we can share our communities with animals.

 **Think about** the impact cats and dogs can have on wildlife. We will leash pets or monitor them outdoors to avoid interactions with wildlife.

 **Spread the word** with friends, neighbors, schoolmates and others about responsible dog and cat ownership.

 **Don't turn a blind eye** to animal abuse or neglect. We'll report any instances of cruelty to the local authorities.

 **Model compassion** by setting a good example for how animals should be treated. We'll always interact with cats and dogs in a kind, gentle, respectful and responsible manner.

around the world

 **Don't pass judgment too quickly**

Communities around the world live with dogs, cats and other animals in many different ways. Even though we may not be accustomed to them, that doesn't mean animals are unhealthy or unhappy.

 **Advocate for animal welfare**

by supporting local, national and international legislation that benefits animals.

All DOGS Need...

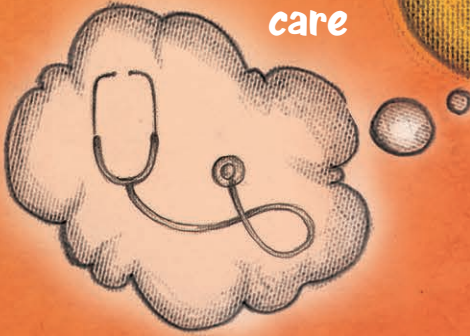
fresh food & water



shelter
from heat,
cold & rain



veterinary
care



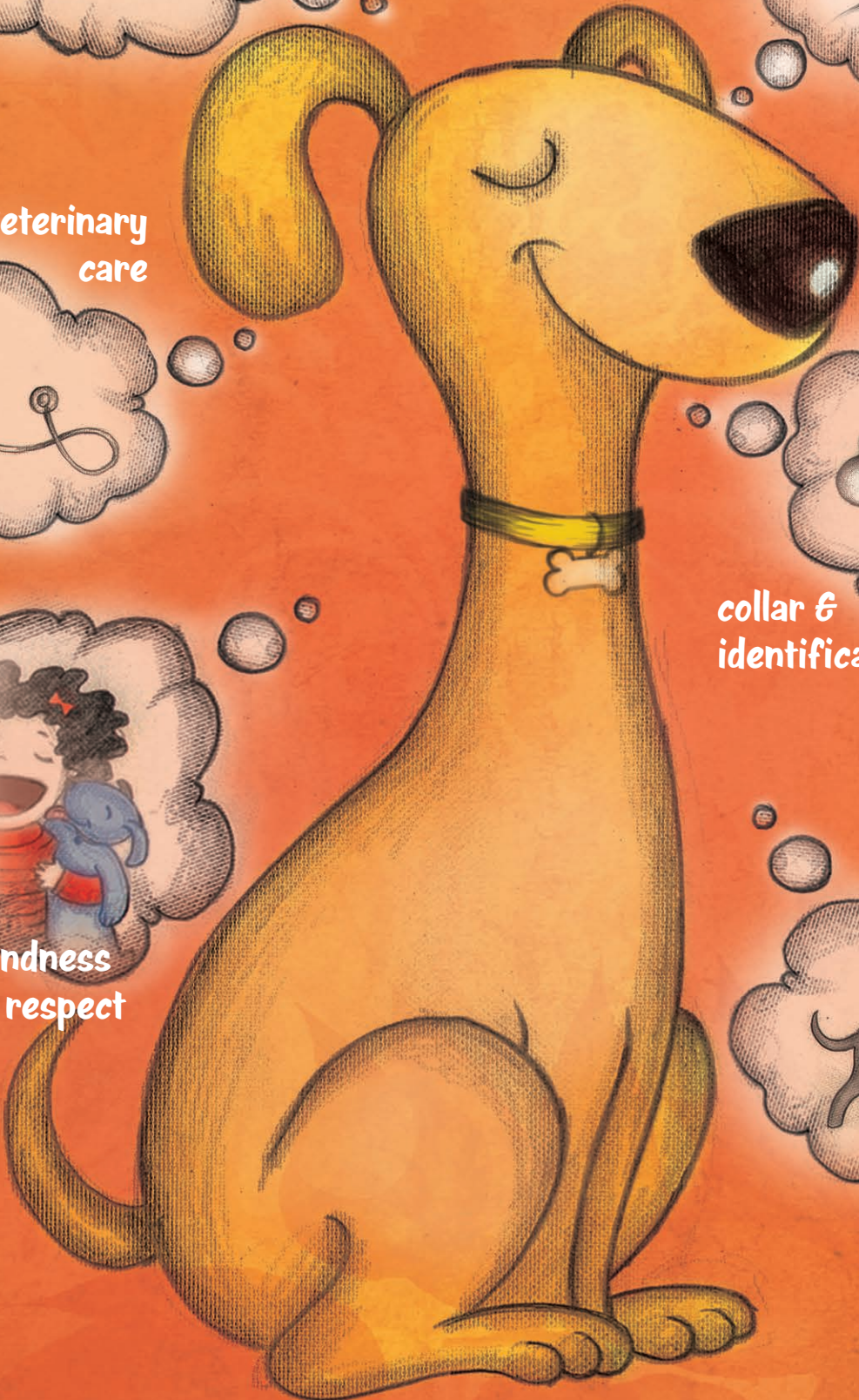
collar &
identification tag



exercise
& playtime



kindness
& respect



Every CAT Needs...



fresh food
& water



clean litter box or
soft ground to bury
waste

exercise &
playtime



veterinary
care

kindness
& respect

