

# The Simple Act of Animal Care



Possibly the most important aspect of the human-animal bond is our responsibility for animal care. Whether animals are our companions or destined for the food supply, they require food, shelter and veterinary attention while they are in our care.

Caring for an animal can be a rewarding experience, but we must not underestimate the effort and energy required for our part of the relationship. If we are aware of what it takes to care for a companion animal or livestock, we may be able to prevent abandonment and maintain the welfare of our animal population.

## *Pet Owners Make Time for Care*

Good pet owners attend to daily food and water, provide a clean, safe place to live, find ways to exercise pets, and keep them clean and up-to-date on their veterinary visits. When they go out of town, pet owners arrange for pet care through a neighbor, friend or kennel.



## *Livestock Farmers Provide Essential Care*

There are many ways to raise livestock for food. Some animals live in barns, others on pasture. They may be with many other animals or a few. Regardless of the size or type of operation, farmers employ some basic components of animal care:

- **Food and Water.** Farmers must ensure food and clean, ample water is available at all times.
- **Shelter.** Animals may need a place to stay protected during inclement weather and avoid predators and disease. Animals raised in barns still get natural light, fresh air and attention to their individual needs. Farmers also provide bedding, or a clean, comfortable place for cattle, sheep, chickens or pigs to sleep.
- **Veterinary Attention.** Good farmers are conscientious about preventative animal care that keeps animals healthy and the food supply safe. Animals are observed and treated individually. If antibiotics must be used to treat a sick animal, farmers are required to keep records to ensure enough time has passed so medications are not passed through the food supply.



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