

## Your Dog Welfare

It is easy to achieve a well balanced, good natured dog if you observe the following:-

- Ensure that your dog has his own space. This should be in a draught free corner with his own special bed and blankets.  
  
When he is in his own bed do not allow children to tease or upset him.
- Provide a permanent bowl of fresh drinking water and his own separate feeding bowls. Never wash his dishes with yours.
- Consult a veterinary surgeon about inoculation against the common diseases, and worm prevention.

Do not wait for an emergency before making arrangements with a local veterinary surgery, it will cost you more!!

- Take your dog to obedience classes and teach him the word **NO**.

When he is good, plenty of praise is essential.

Make sure you have control of your dog at all times.

- Exercise your dog regularly. 40 minutes a day is ample for most breeds.
- Provide marrow bones and hide chews (never chicken bones), as this prevents boredom and helps keep your dog's teeth and gums healthy. (some lamb bones can splinter).
- Never leave your dog on its own for extended periods of time. This causes anti-social behaviour such as the destroying of carpets and furniture.

A destructive dog is usually a distressed dog.

**Always treat your dog with respect, kindness and patience. You will be rewarded with a happy, good natured, obedient dog who will be a joy to live with.**

**Should you require further information on this subject, please contact a local veterinary surgery.**

Dogs show two types of stress:

**Negative** . . . . covering, tail between legs, shaking etc. This dog is confused, frightened and not sure what it needs to do.

**Positive** . . . . If you raise your voice for example the dog appears to play up, won't come near; he tries to turn the situation into a game.

Both scenarios are as a result of stress. **DO NOT** chastise your dog, make yourself small (crouch down), talk in a lower voice, reassure the dog. Let the dog know it's ok and you are not angry; repeat this whenever necessary. Very quickly the dog will gain confidence and realise what you require from him and will be happy to do it without stress.

A stressed dog will appear from an untrained eye to be wimpy / frightened or disobedient and uncontrollable. Take a second to think what or how the dog is feeling. Try and change the way you handle the situation. Your dog could quickly become a credit to you and then you will be seen as an excellent owner / handler.

[www.rother.gov.uk](http://www.rother.gov.uk)



**Rother**  
District Council

.....Working towards Excellence

**Environmental Health Service  
Rother District Council  
14 Beeching Road  
Bexhill-on-Sea  
East Sussex  
TN39 3LG**

**Tel: 01424 787550  
Fax: 01424 787547  
email: [envhealth@rother.gov.uk](mailto:envhealth@rother.gov.uk)  
website: [www.rother.gov.uk](http://www.rother.gov.uk)**

**Rother District Council**  
serving the communities of Battle, Bexhill, Rye  
& surrounding villages.

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**Dog Information Series**