



FCI GUIDELINES

FOR BREEDERS AND OWNERS
ON WELFARE, WELL-BEING AND
PROTECTION OF DOGS WORLDWIDE

Dog welfare means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives.

A dog is in a good state of welfare if it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behavior, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress.

Good welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/killing.

Dog welfare refers only to the condition of the animal; the treatment that dogs receive is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.



THE ESSENTIAL POINTS...

Behavior

Behavior is individual and depends on its age, breed or type and past experience. However, most dogs are playful, sociable animals and they enjoy playing together with toys, people and other dogs.

Dogs are intelligent animals and can suffer from boredom. If a dog is bored, and does not have enough to do, it may suffer or engage in inappropriate behavior.

Play is an important part of getting along with people and other dogs, and although dogs will spend some time playing alone with toys, they should have regular opportunities for interactive playing.

Changes in behavior may indicate that something is wrong with a dog's health. All dogs, in particular puppies, need rest. However, individual dogs have different needs and some will sleep for long periods after exercise or food; others will need less rest and will be more active.



Exercise and training

A dog needs regular exercise and regular opportunities to walk and run. The amount of exercise a dog needs varies with age, breed and health.

Some breeds need a lot of exercise.

Young dogs may need to have their exercise restricted during periods of rapid growth, to avoid developmental problems.

Dogs need to have enough to do so that they do not become distressed or bored.

They should have access to safe toys and suitable objects to play and chew. Puppies and older animals may need more rest.





Always...

Provide dogs with regular opportunities for exercise and play with people or other friendly dogs.

Ensure that dogs can rest undisturbed when they want.

Give dogs the exercise they need, at least daily to keep them fit, active and stimulated.

If you become aware of changes in behavior, you may need veterinary advice, as the dog may be distressed, bored, ill or injured.

Training

All dogs should be trained to behave well, ideally from a very young age.

Use only positive reward based training.

Avoid harsh, potentially painful or frightening training methods.



Good training can enhance a dog quality of life.... punishing a dog can only cause it pain and suffering.

Provide lifetime protection from Pain, Suffering, Injury and Disease.

Dogs feel pain and have similar pain thresholds as people. However, individual dogs and different breeds or types may show pain and suffering in different ways.

Dogs which are ill, or in pain, often change their eating and drinking habits. They may eat less or stop eating and lose weight.

They may drink water excessively; drink less or not at all.

Any change in the way a dog behaves can be an early sign that it is ill, or in pain.



Protection from disease

Dogs are vulnerable to a range of infectious diseases and other illnesses. They need protection from serious infections, which can be provided by vaccination.

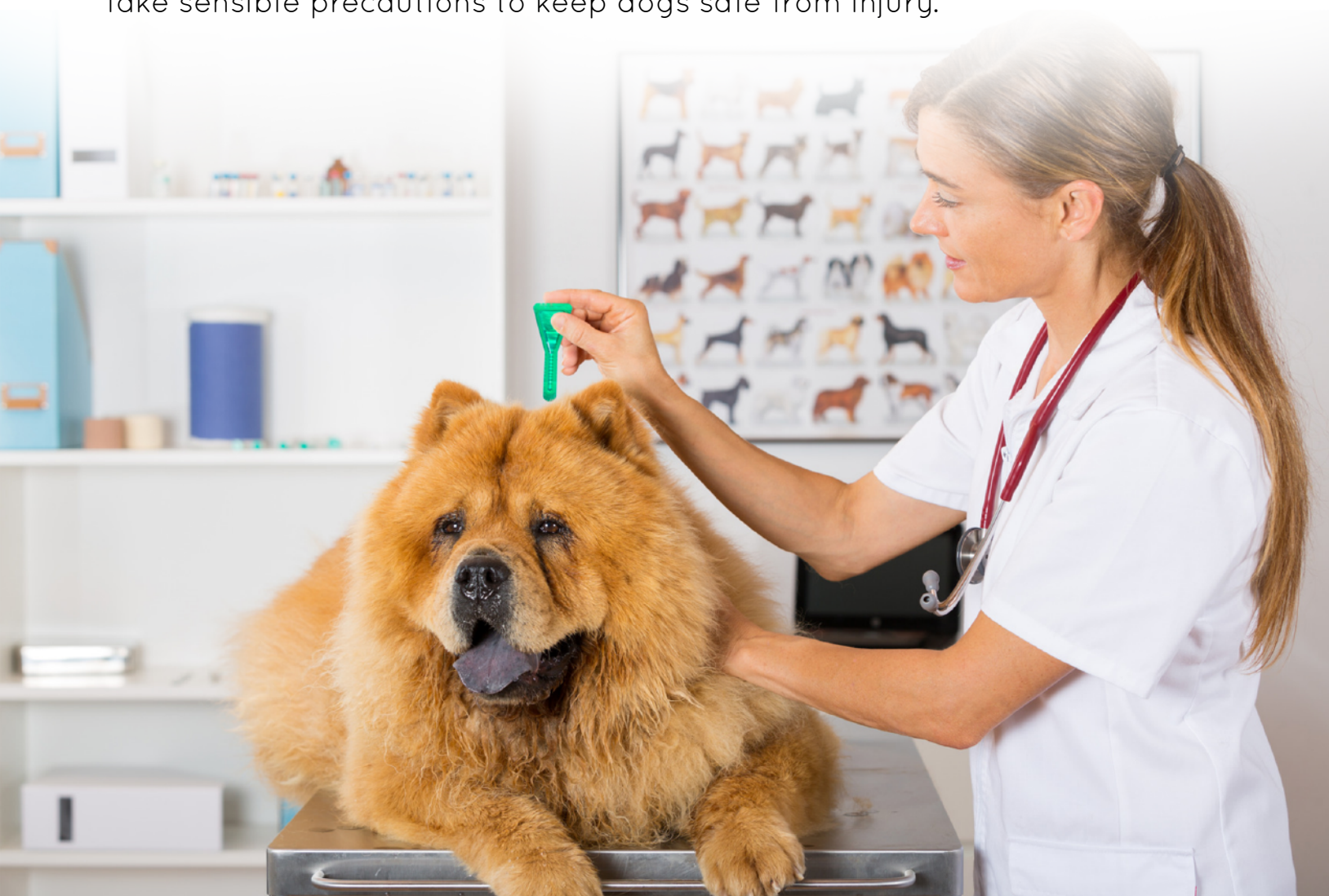
Many people choose to have their dogs neutered. If there is no interest to breed dogs, veterinarians can advise on neutering and the health benefits of neutering dogs.

If the decision is to breed a dog, veterinarians can advise on the risks of inherited conditions that could affect the welfare of the puppies.

A dog which can be easily identified by a microchip is more likely to be reunited with its owner if injured, or lost, particularly if it loses its collar. It is then more likely to receive the prompt veterinary treatment.

What breeders or owners should always do:

Take sensible precautions to keep dogs safe from injury.





If changes in dog's behavior are observed, they should contact veterinarians and follow the given advice.

Dogs coats should be carefully checked and groomed, as this is necessary to maintain a healthy coat.

Check dogs over regularly and watch out for signs of injury, hereditary disease or illness.

"If any signs and symptoms of disease are observed or there is a suspicion that a dog is in pain, ill or injured ,a veterinary should be contacted promptly and his advice regarding its treatment should be followed."

MVZ. Jose Luis Payro

Veterinarians should be asked how often dog needs a health check, and what can be done regularly to protect dog's health.

¡ Always follow a vetererinarian medical advice !

There are many hereditary diseases in different dogs breeds, they should be examined by an expert in order to avoid using them for reproduction.



Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

FCI Kennel Clubs members must ensure that dog breeder and persons who acquire a purebred registered dog are made aware of the FCI guidelines concerning dogs welfare, well-being and protection





