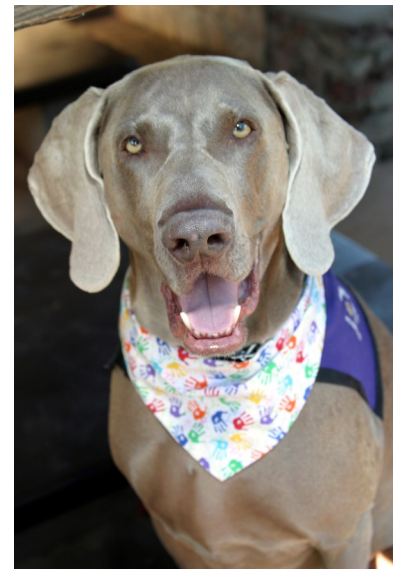


# Responsibilities of Dog Ownership

- 🐾 Dogs typically live 10 to 15 years. A dog is part of your family—they are not to be given away or “thrown out.” This is important to consider before adopting a dog.
- 🐾 Dogs require patience and may need extra time to understand what you want them to do.
- 🐾 Dogs and their people must trust each other. This trust is crucial to the dog’s well-being.
- 🐾 People should not take their anger out on each other or on their dogs. Dogs shouldn’t be locked up as punishment or left alone for extended hours or days at a time.
- 🐾 People should talk to their dogs. It’s an important part of developing a trusting relationship with your dog for him/her to hear your encouraging and loving words.



# Responsibilities of Dog Ownership



Dogs should be treated with respect and dignity. Dogs require food, exercise, medical care and lots of love.



People should never hit a dog.



People should pay attention to their dogs. If your dog is acting out there is a reason. Is the dog sick? Has the dog been hurt? Have you spent time with the dog? Dogs aren't able to talk so they make their needs known in different ways. It's important to recognize changes in your dog's behavior.



People should forgive their dog when the dog does something that makes the person angry. Dogs and people make mistakes—forgiveness is important to developing a respectful and trusting relationship.



Dogs and people need unconditional love. When people and their dogs have developed a respectful and trusting relationship, there is lots of unconditional love for both of you!



## MY COMPASSIONATE COMMITMENT

You can prepare to become a responsible pet guardian by showing your compassionate commitment to your current or future pet! Remember to include activities that illustrate at least one of the important character traits we are trying to build: Trust, Confidence, Self-Respect, Teamwork, Tolerance, Empathy and Problem-Solving or other important traits like Responsibility, Kindness and Compassion.

| ACTIVITY | HOW OFTEN SHOULD THIS BE DONE? | WHO SHOULD DO IT? | BUILDS & CREATES |
|----------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
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I understand the responsibility of dog and/or pet ownership and promise to be able to fulfill the activities listed above before bringing a pet into my home.

SIGNED:

DATE:

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# Responsible Dog Ownership

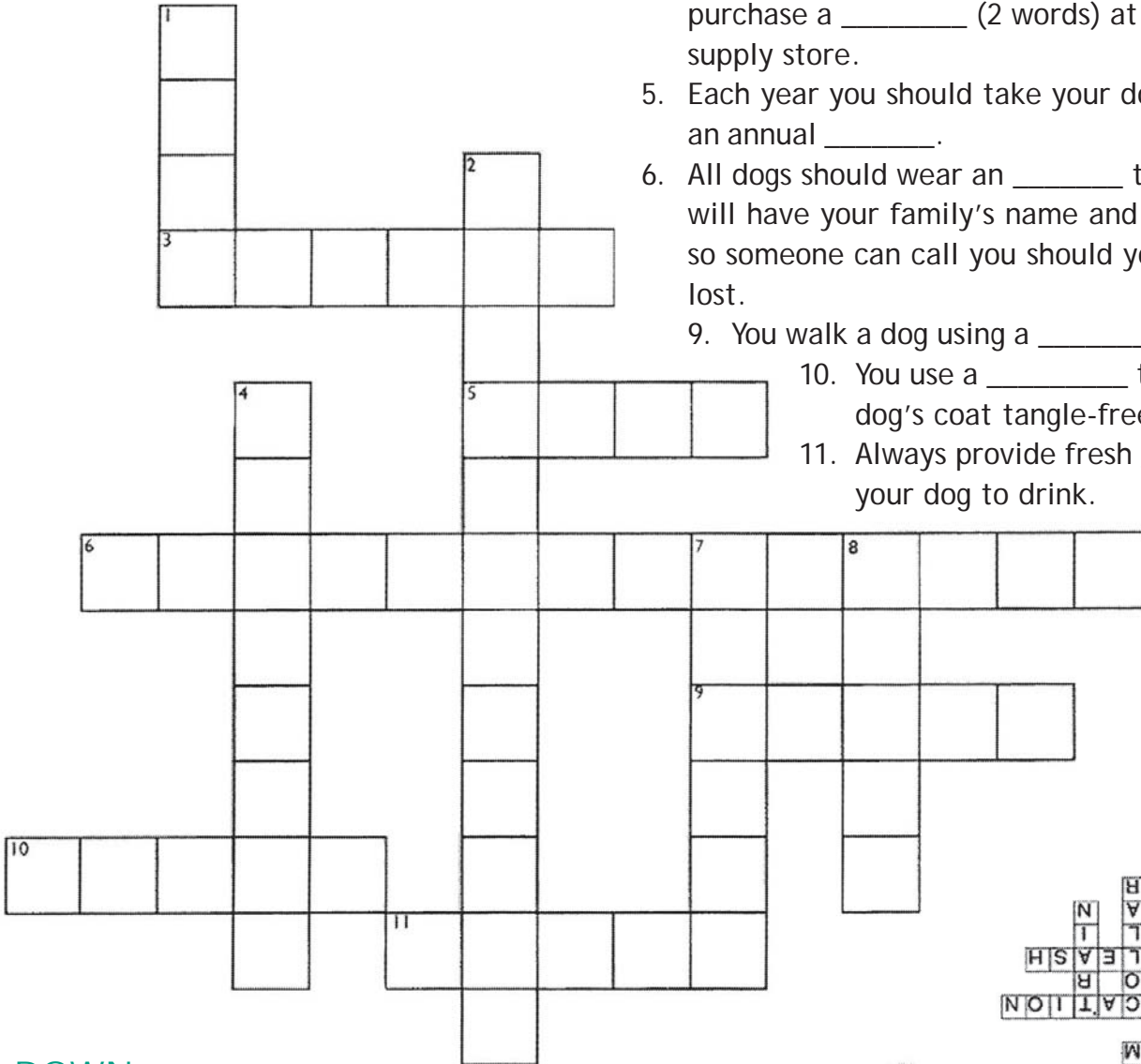
## Crossword Puzzle



Use the clues below to figure out the words, then fill in the appropriate blanks.

### ACROSS

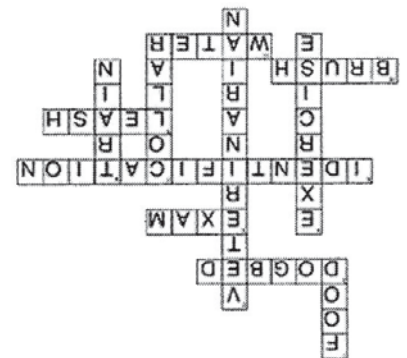
3. A dog needs a warm, dry place to sleep. You can purchase a \_\_\_\_\_ (2 words) at your local pet supply store.
5. Each year you should take your dog to the vet for an annual \_\_\_\_\_.
6. All dogs should wear an \_\_\_\_\_ tag. This tag will have your family's name and phone number so someone can call you should your dog become lost.
9. You walk a dog using a \_\_\_\_\_.
10. You use a \_\_\_\_\_ to keep your dog's coat tangle-free.
11. Always provide fresh \_\_\_\_\_ for your dog to drink.



### DOWN

1. Most dog owners feed their dogs nutritious \_\_\_\_\_ twice a day.
2. Your dog's "doctor" is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. You should \_\_\_\_\_ your dog at least twice a day. Walking, running, or playing fetch are good examples of this.
7. Your dog should wear its \_\_\_\_\_. You attach a leash to this.
8. All responsible owners should \_\_\_\_\_ their dogs to sit, stay, come, heel, and lie down.

### ANSWER



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB™