



Richmond Animal Protection Society (RAPS)

RAPS Cat Sanctuary and the RAPS City Shelter

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A Dog's Bill of Rights

Before you consider adopting a dog, please ensure you can provide for them. **All domestic dogs, regardless of breed, age or capability, have the right to:**

1. be a full member of a family and live in a home. As social pack animals, dogs *should not be* kept separate from the pack with which they are associated.
2. be provided with proper food and clean water that is sufficient to maintain a healthy weight.
3. have regular and sufficient exercise on a daily basis.
4. **not** be confined to cages or left in garages for extended periods (i.e. greater than three hours).
5. be allowed to have time each day for interesting activities such as toys, games or play time with others.
6. be provided with proper training so they can exist as good dog citizens in society.
7. have quality veterinary care to maintain good health throughout their lives.
8. be treated with dignity throughout their lives and be properly cared for as senior dogs.
9. be provided with proper grooming and cleaning of their fur, ears, paws, teeth, and be kept free of fleas or other parasites at all times.
10. **not** be abandoned for any reason. Owners who cannot or choose not to care for their dog should surrender the dog to a rescue group or shelter for re-homing.

Please remember it is *okay to not have pets.* There are a number of reasons that people may not be able to properly care for a dog including lack of experience, lack of money to feed the dog, lack of space to exercise the dog, fear of the dog or the belief that the dog's purpose is simply to protect property. Those who wish to acquire a dog to protect the home should choose to install a house alarm system instead. The cost to feed and care for a dog is a far greater cost than an alarm and may be much more reliable.