



## About The Native America Humane Society

The Native America Humane Society (NAHS) is composed of tribal members and their allies assisting tribal communities to resolve their challenges with animals. NAHS acts as the bridge between tribal communities and animal welfare service providers, NGOs, foundations, and other agencies. Our mission is to empower Native communities to become healthier, happier and safer by providing information, support and resources for animal care programs in Indian country.



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## Our Responsibility

Dogs have been part of our communities for thousands of years. We rely on them for companionship and protection. They also may have the capacity to help us heal as recent research shows that having a pet improves our emotional wellbeing. For their loyalty and friendship, it is our responsibility as pet owners to ensure that the dogs in our lives receive the care they deserve.

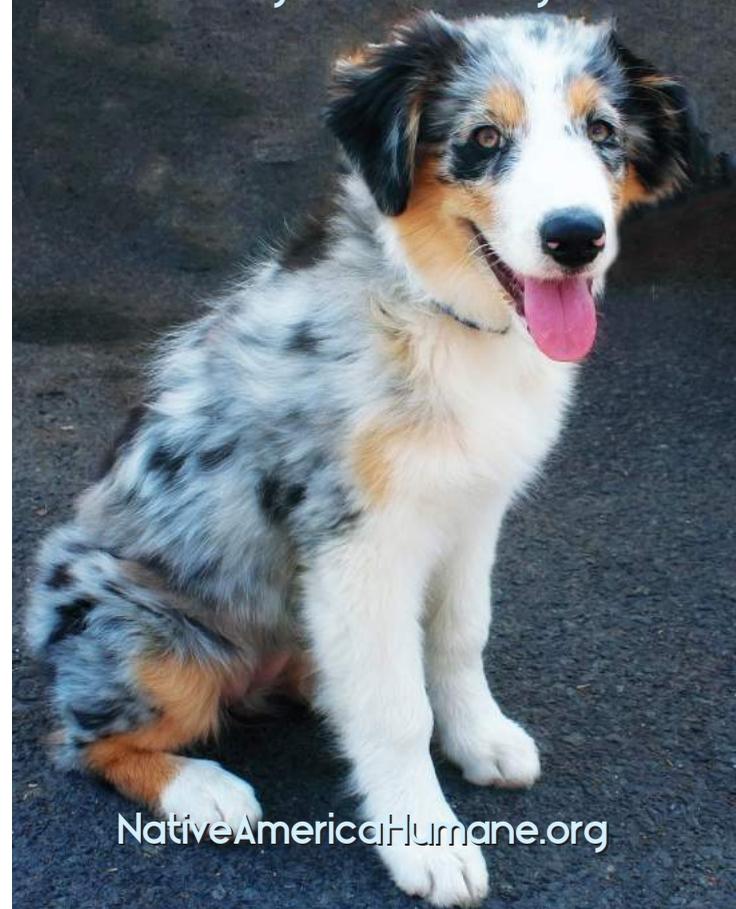
### BASIC DOG CARE

- Access to fresh water on a regular basis
- Daily feeding to develop and maintain health and temperament
- Comfortable and safe shelter - inside or out



Serving Tribal Communities

## Caring For Your Dogs



[NativeAmericaHumane.org](http://NativeAmericaHumane.org)

# Keeping Our Families and Pets Safe

Though many of our communities have long standing beliefs and traditions about letting dogs roam freely, changing times and population growth resulting in larger towns and villages on reservations are encouraging us to transition to modern dog ownership ways in order to improve community health and safety. Since dogs by nature are social “pack” animals, free roaming dogs will instinctually find each other and run together which can contribute to attacks on our children, elders, family pets, wildlife, and livestock. According to the CDC, reservation residents experience dog bites at twice the rate of other communities.

## Keep Them Home

To protect your loved ones including your pets, the best bet is keeping your dog(s) home. If your dog is an outside dog, it should be kept in your yard or property and provided shade and shelter with a well-insulated dog house that stays cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Dog houses should be cleaned out regularly and lined with straw as seasons change to keep your dog comfortable.

### Outside dogs also need:

- Spill-proof water bowls and extra servings of water during summer
- Water bowls should be checked in winter for ice. Believe it or not, dogs can easily die of thirst in below zero weather.
- Extra food during winter time to provide extra calories for warmth



## Tethering or Tying a Dog Outside

Many communities require confinement to the owner’s property unless under control of the owner. A fenced in area, garage, or kennel is the ideal situation but this may not be possible. For an alternative to a standard stake in the ground tie out or chaining, construct an overhead run with a long cable fastened to two end points. The tether for the dog then runs freely back and forth along the overhead cable allowing for more exercise than a standard tie out or chaining.

**IMPORTANT:** Keep in mind that dogs are pack animals and that it is psychological punishment if a dog is kept tied up nonstop and isolated with no breaks for socialization with your family or play time with other dogs. If you can, allow the dog to spend most of his/her time with you indoors and limit the time of tethering to a few hours every day. Dogs constantly at the end of tethers can also experience frustration and become dangerous to your family and others.

### Other Problems with Tethering That Can Hurt Your Dog

- Chains or tie outs may tangle resulting in injury or keep the dog from shelter or water.
- Dogs are not protected from attack by other animals.
- Dogs may be left open to teasing by passersby.
- Chafing of collars and harnesses should be checked for regularly. If an owner forgets to check a growing dog’s collar, it may become imbedded in the dog’s neck.

## Providing Veterinary Health Care for Your Dog

Veterinary medical professionals recommend that dogs have yearly veterinary exams to monitor their health and to provide care as needed including preventative vaccines, fecal exams, heartworm and other tests, and preventive prescriptions.

- A current rabies vaccination is important to protect your dog and for public safety.
- Many communities also require dogs to be licensed yearly. Check with animal control or law enforcement on local laws.
- Consider getting your dog microchipped so he/she can be identified and returned to you if lost.
- Another common belief in some of our communities is that it is unfair to animals to have them altered so they cannot reproduce. However, research shows that having your dog spayed or neutered improves their lives and keeps them healthy. Spayed or neutered dogs are also safer as they may lose their desire to roam from their yards.



## Signs of Illness, Neglect or Intentional Abuse

Research shows that if an animal is being abused, there is likely child abuse, domestic violence, or other forms of violence occurring within the family. 36.8% of boys and 29.4% of girls who were victims of physical and sexual abuse and domestic violence have been reported to abuse their family pet.

Possible signs include:

### Neglected Appearance of Animal

- Dull hair coat; thin (ribs showing, sunken in flanks); hair loss, coat coated in feces or urine; mange.
- Medical symptoms include diarrhea; chronic cough; heavy flea or tick infestation, hot spots and scabs; bare ear tips and other body areas; untreated open sores or wounds; large tumors; collar imbedded in skin; ingrown nails.
- Listless, depressed behavior

### Poor or Negligent Housing Conditions

- No food or water or food spoiled
- No shelter from elements

Any suspected animal abuse, neglect, or intentional acts of cruelty should be reported to local animal control or law enforcement immediately. When animal abuse is taken seriously, communities are safer for every member of the family.

See our website for more information on the link between human violence and animal abuse:

[www.nativeamericahumane.org/endviolence](http://www.nativeamericahumane.org/endviolence)