

Pet dogs and cats FAQs

(Gifu Prefectural Public Health Division)

Q1 Are there any rules for owning a dog?

A1

When owning a dog, you must register the dog once in its life and you must get the dog immunized against rabies yearly. In addition, new owners of a dog that has already been microchipped must register themselves as its owner.

In order to avoid danger to others, dogs should be kept securely leashed if kept outside, or be raised indoors.

Also, when taking your dog for walks, please always keep your dog on a leash to avoid causing inconvenience to others.

When your dog does its business while on a walk, it is always the responsibility of the owner to pick up the excrement.

Q2 When should I register my dog and get it immunized against rabies?

A2

You have to register your dog once in its life. Please register it at the municipal office in your area more than 90 days after it's born (or within 30 days of you becoming its owner). After the registration, a license will be issued for your dog. Please fit the license onto your dog's collar, or another suitable area of your dog.

You must get your dog immunized against rabies once per year. The immunizations take place between April and June, so please enquire at your local municipal office for more information. Once carried out, a rabies vaccination pass will be issued, and please also fit this to your dog's collar, or other suitable area of your dog.

Q3 What do I do if my dog bites someone?

A3

After first-aid treatment has been given to the bite victim, take them to the hospital for a medical checkup. Inform the doctor about the dog bite and about your dog's rabies vaccination history. As the owner, you will be required to submit an accident report to the nearest public health center and receive instructions. Your dog must also be examined by a

vet.

Q4 What should I do if my dog goes missing?

A4

Immediately notify a health center and the police. Describe your dog's characteristics to them (breed, sex, size, coat colour, whether it was wearing a collar, etc.), tell them the location your dog got lost and other details. Please refer to the "lost dog information" section of the Gifu Prefectural website. Also keep an eye out for your dog in animal shelters in across Gifu.

Q5 What do I do when my dog passes away?

A5

Please bring the dog license issued at the time of your dog's registration to your local municipal office.

Q6 I would like to get a dog, can I get one from an animal shelter?

A6

First check the Gifu Prefectural website for information about available dogs and cats. If there are any dogs available for adoption/ purchase, enquire at the animal shelter which is currently looking after it. In addition to animal shelters, the Gifu Prefectural Animal Protection Center and animal welfare organizations, etc. are also looking for new owners for dogs and cats.

Q7 What do I need to be aware of when becoming a cat owner?

A7

New owners of a cat that has already been microchipped must register themselves as the cat's owner.

When owning a cat, you will need a food bowl, a water bowl and a litterbox. It is better to bring a new cat home in the morning, so it can get accustomed to its new surroundings more quickly. It's important to let the cat get a lot of rest after it has arrived.

There will be necessary expenses related to looking after your cat, such as the cost of food and vaccinations.

To prevent unwanted breeding, you should spay or neuter your cat. In Japan it is normal

to keep pet cats indoors as housecats to avoid the cat breeding, becoming infected with a disease, or being involved in a traffic accident.

Q8 Do you take in dogs and cats?

A8

Yes, animal shelters take in dogs and cats. But, before bringing it to a shelter, please look for someone who can adopt them instead. If you cannot find anyone who is able to look after the pet, please consult with an animal shelter.

Q9 Can I leave the country with my dog (or cat)?

A9

In order to take your dog or cat with you when you go abroad, you must meet the requirements for leaving Japan and the requirements for entering the other country. Please contact the animal quarantine station for more information.