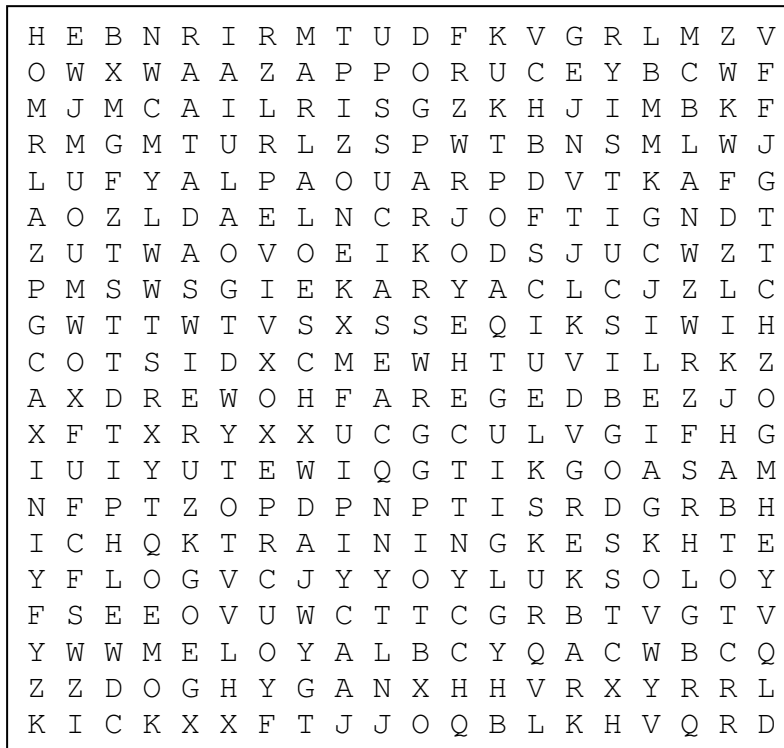


TAKING CARE OF A DOG

Read the story, learn about dog care, and then look for the **bold** words – you can find them all in the word search!



Many people call dogs “man’s best friend,” because they are such **loyal** and loving companions, but did you know that all domesticated dogs are distant relatives of wolves? It’s true! The first domesticated dogs were directly descended from wolves 15,000 years ago, and all of the different breeds in the world came from those dogs.

Taking care of a dog is lots of fun, but it’s also lots of work. Dogs need fresh water and healthy food every day; good **nutrition** is just as important for their health as it is for ours. Dogs also have lots of energy and they need lots of **exercise** – most dogs need to be walked or have time to run in the yard at least two or three times a day. It’s important to have a sturdy **collar** and **leash** so you can take your dog for plenty of walks! Dogs also need a lot of **training**; it’s up to us to teach them where to go to the bathroom and how to behave. It’s a good idea to take your dog to obedience classes to help him learn.

Dogs are much safer and happier if they live **indoors** – they should only go outdoors when you can go out with them. Because dogs don’t tell us when they’re feeling sick, it’s very important to take them to see a **veterinarian** at least once a year. They need vaccinations and a check-up to make sure nothing is wrong. While you’re there, ask your vet to make sure that your dog is **fixed**! There are already many more puppies in the world than there are people to take care of them, and you should never, ever let your dog have babies.

Dogs are very **playful** pets and if your dog likes to play with other dogs, the **dog park** might be the perfect place for him! A dog park is a place for dogs to run and play off-leash, where they can **bark** and **wag** their tails to their heart’s content. Don’t forget to bring plenty of **dog biscuits** – every dog loves a treat!

Want to have a dog for a pet? We have many who need homes! Don’t buy a dog at a pet store – **adopt** one instead!