Are you an environmentally friendly pet owner?

✐When choosing a pet, be environmentally friendly by adopting a domestic animal. Some mammals and many species of birds, snakes, frogs, chameleons, turtles, spiders and fish are captured in the wild in other countries and sold as exotic pets in North America. Even in North America people capture frogs, turtles, snakes and other creatures to keep as pets. No matter where they come from, leave wild animals in their own environment.

✐Never release into the wild a pet you can no longer keep. The animal could starve to death, kill other creatures in order to survive, spread diseases and parasites to wildlife, or cause other problems.

✐Keep your dog on a leash when walking off your property except in off leash areas. Loose dogs can harrass wild creatures, cause car accidents, get into dog fights, and bite people.

✐Stoop and scoop your dog's poop. This will keep the environment clean and help to control the spread of parasites and diseases.

✐Prevent your dog from barking excessively. Noise is a form of pollution and can be very disturbing to your neighbours.

✐Keep your cat indoors to prevent your pet from catching birds, digging up gardens, pooping in sandboxes or annoying the neighbours. Cats live longer when kept indoors or on a leash when outdoors. (See p. 3 to learn how to harness train your cat.)

✐Buy pet food in as large a package as you can store properly. This saves on packaging. Avoid buying pet food in foil pouches. Recycle any containers you can.

✐Use natural products to keep fleas off your pets. Read labels carefully before you buy any products to use on pets.

✐Use "green" products for bathing your pets or when treating odours from them.

✐Protect your pets as well as wildlife by not using chemical pesticides and herbicides in your garden.

Are you an environmentally friendly pet owner?

✐Spay or neuter your cat and dog to help control the pet overpopulation. Every year in Canada, tens of thousands of animals are euthanized because no homes can be found for them.

© 1999 Canadian Federation of Humane Societies