



DOGS AND THEIR NEEDS

Like all other creatures, dogs have needs. Using Maslow's hierarchy of needs, these can be categorised as follows:

1. Basic needs
2. Safety-related needs
3. Social needs
4. Social recognition
5. Personal fulfilment

Basic needs

Dogs' basic needs include

- an adequate daily supply of good food
- an adequate daily supply of fresh water
- an adequate amount of daily exercise
- an adequate amount of sleep
- the opportunity to relieve itself

Safety-related needs

Dogs' need for safety can be satisfied by

- at least one person to whom they can relate
- daily routines
- reliable leadership
- opportunities for withdrawal
- freedom from pain and fear

Social needs

Dogs' social needs can be satisfied by

- its human "pack"



- regular contact with other dogs
- physical contact

Social recognition

Dogs get social recognition from

- praise
- acknowledgement
- being present for all pleasurable activities undertaken by its owners(s)
- a sense of achievement while being raised and/or trained

Personal fulfilment

In this respect, dogs simply want to be dogs and allowed to do what they feel like, including

- frolicking
- hunting
- digging
- running
- and whatever else their doggy hearts desire :-)