

10 Mistakes Dog Guardians Make

Family Matters

Dogs enrich our lives in countless ways. They make us laugh, comfort us when we're down and become cherished members of our families. As guardians, we all want to do the very best for them—but even with the best intentions, mistakes can happen.

At Amity, we believe that knowledge is one of the greatest gifts you can give your dog. Here are ten common mistakes we see and, more importantly, how to avoid them.

1. Choosing With Your Heart Instead of Your Head

Every dog is beautiful, but not every breed suits every family. Before bringing a dog home, consider their size, temperament, exercise needs and grooming requirements. The right match leads to a happier life for everyone.

2. Not Investing in Good Insurance

No one plans for illness or accidents. Good insurance allows you to make decisions based on what's best for your dog—not what you can afford at the time.

3. Waiting Until Something Goes Wrong

Dogs age much faster than we do. Regular health checks help identify problems early, often before your dog shows obvious signs of illness.

4. Letting Them Become Overweight

A little extra weight may seem harmless, but obesity increases the risk of arthritis, diabetes, heart disease and a shorter lifespan. Healthy weight is one of the greatest gifts you can give your dog.

5. Forgetting About Dental Health

Bad breath isn't just unpleasant—it can be a sign of painful dental disease. Healthy teeth contribute to better overall health, comfort and quality of life.

6. Missing the Small Changes

Dogs rarely tell us they're in pain. Changes in appetite, behaviour, energy levels, drinking habits or mobility are often the first signs that something isn't right. Pay attention to the little things—they often become the big things.

7. Underestimating the Importance of Training

Training isn't about control; it's about communication. A well-trained dog is happier, safer and more confident. Positive, reward-based training strengthens the bond between you and your dog for life.

8. Forgetting Their Emotional Needs

Dogs need more than food and walks. They need companionship, mental stimulation, routine and quality time with their family. A tired mind is just as important as tired legs.

9. Comparing Your Dog to Someone Else's

Every dog is an individual. Some are adventurous, others are cautious. Some learn quickly, while others need more time. Celebrate your dog's unique personality rather than comparing them to others.

10. Forgetting That They Are Family

Dogs share some of the most important moments of our lives. They don't care about your job, your house or your possessions. They simply want your time, your love and your companionship. Treasure every stage of their life, because their time with us is never long enough.

The Best Gift You Can Give Your Dog

The greatest investment you can make isn't the most expensive bed, lead or toy—it's understanding. The more you learn about your dog's health, behaviour and wellbeing, the better decisions you'll make throughout their life.

At Amity, we believe **Empowering You Through Education** helps you become the very best guardian your dog could ever have.

Because at the end of the day...

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet.