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The Key to a Happy Dog

What does a dog truly need to be happy? You treat your pooch to your leftover table scraps so that he feels included and give him free roam of your house and yard. Plus he has more toys that you can even begin to count. It might surprise you to hear that none of these things are the key to his happiness, and in fact, it could be doing more harm than good.

People Food Isn't Dog Food

When you sit down to a meal, your pooch gives you the puppy dog eyes and stares at every bite you take. One little piece won't hurt right? Wrong. There are certain foods that are [toxic](#) to your pooch, resulting in a minor symptom such as an upset stomach, to something more life threatening such as pancreatitis and kidney failure. Seemingly harmless food items such as grapes, nuts, yeast dough, and xylitol (a common sweetener) can cause serious problems for your dog. Even a meat bone similar to the rawhides Fido loves so much can be fatal if the bone splinters and causes choking. If you aren't sure what is and isn't safe, check out this extensive [list](#) provided by

Healthline, but remember that only dog food can provide the necessary nutrients for a happy, healthy dog.

Fido Needs to Explore

Your dog is the king or queen of the home, and has free reign to roam and explore both indoors and out. However, this isn't enough to give your pooch the exercise he needs. Think about it – when was the last time Fido got a pant-inducing workout by chewing on his rubber toy or sniffing out a spot to use the potty? The truth is, your dog isn't going to get any exercise unless you provide him with opportunities to, and this means venturing away from home base. Dog walking is a great way for your dog to get up and moving, explore, and even socialize with a dog or two, but make sure it is a [positive experience](#) with the proper gear and training. Keep things fresh and fun with dog park visits, hiking, or even a trip to the pet store together to pick out a treat.

Toys Aren't Interaction

Okay, so your dog might love playing with the plethora of toys you have provided him, but chances are he doesn't interact with it for the full eight or more hours he is left home alone. Your pooch needs stimulating interaction and socialization, and as your furry family member, you feel a little guilty that Fido is left to entertain himself all day. The truth is, dogs need [socialization](#) and environmental stimulation as much as you do, which is why so many dog owners are turning to doggy day care, pet sitters, and dog walkers to ensure their pooch is living a well-balanced life. Lucky for you, Like Home Pet Care provides all three of these services, making them your [one-stop shop](#) for everything doggy-related. The best part is that your dog truly becomes part of the family. When owner Silvia Sarceno was asked about the best part of working with your dogs, she had this to say: "The second-family type relationships we have built with the parents and their pets. I have had clients that we have taken care of their dog since it was a puppy up until their senior life."

Your dog is your pride and joy, so make sure all your efforts are contributing to Fido's health and happiness. Limit the table scraps, up the exercise, and provide opportunities to interact and play. When time isn't on your side, bring in Like Home Pet Care to keep Fido's tail wagging.