



ADOPTION CHECK LIST

- **Why do you want a new pet?**
You should not adopt a pet without much thought and consideration. Take your time thinking it through. Never adopt on impulse.
- **All aboard?**
Are all the members of your family on board to welcome a new pet?
- **Is it in the budget?**
Over your pet's lifetime, the cost of ownership can be high. We advise that you budget \$1,500 to \$2,000 in expenses per year.
- **Are you allergic?**
Consider potential allergies of all family members.
- **Special challenges?**
Housebreaking your pet can take time, patience, and compassion. You might also experience damage to furniture and property. Are you sure you can accept this? Additionally, medical issues are also common during the life of your pet. Make sure you have time and resources to tackle these issues.
- **Are there pet ownership rules where you live?**
Many rental properties and condo/co-ops have special requirements. Inquire about size, breed, and training restrictions. Are there additional deposits for pet owners? Be sure to get the policy in writing. Also, if you own your own home, check your homeowner's insurance for any breed restrictions.
- **Which is the right pet for your home?**
For instance, a howling beagle might not be right for your apartment complex. If you have birds or other roaming small critters, in all likelihood, a cat is not the right choice for your home.
- **Do you have the right lifestyle?**
Are you about to move? Do you travel for work? Will a promotion or new job change your availability? Make sure these matters are settled before you adopt.

- **Are you about to have a baby?**
This might not be the best time to integrate a new pet into your home.
- **What do you do when you travel?**
Can you take your pet along? Do you have friends or family nearby who can pet sit? Are there reliable kennels or pet sitting services? Research your options before you adopt.
- **Is your home pet proof?**
Make sure your home is safe for your new pet. Identify and securely store poisonous chemicals and detergents. Small objects can prove hazardous; secure desk supplies (including paper clips and rubber bands). Assure all food is properly stored and inaccessible (for instance, chocolate and raisins can prove deadly for dogs). Even children's toys with small parts can be dangerous. Many plants are poisonous; for example, poinsettias, spider plants, and lilies can be deadly.
- **What local laws and regulations should you follow?**
Be an ambassador for responsible pet ownership. Follow all rabies, licensing, and leash laws. Be sure to clean up after your dog and make sure all your pets have a proper identification tag.