

A PET IS A PRIVILEGE The benefits of pet ownership come with obligations, and responsible pet owners provide for their pet's needs in many ways. Avoid impulsive decisions about obtaining a pet, and carefully select a pet that's suited to your home and lifestyle.

BEFORE YOU GET A PET, ASK YOURSELF:



1. DO YOU HAVE THE TIME A PET REQUIRES IN YOUR DAILY SCHEDULE?



2. CAN YOU AFFORD THE COSTS OF HAVING A PET?



3. ARE YOU PHYSICALLY ABLE TO PROVIDE THE EXERCISE AND CARE NEEDED FOR THE PET YOU HAVE IN MIND?

Happy
16th
Birthday
Fido



4. CAN YOU COMMIT TO CARING FOR A PET FOR ITS LIFETIME?



5. CAN YOUR HOME ACCOMMODATE A PET?

BEFORE YOU GET A DOG, ASK YOURSELF:

1. DO YOU HAVE THE TIME A DOG REQUIRES?

....in addition to your other obligations, like work, school, and family?

You will need to make time in your daily schedule for:

- exercise – an hour for walking or playing ball,
- obedience / behavior training, and
- socialization – people, other dogs, places

2. CAN YOU AFFORD A DOG?

APPROX. \$3,000 to 4,000 A YEAR:

- Food - \$1,000 - \$2,000 a year
- Routine vaccinations/vet visits: \$100–\$350 a year or Pet Insurance to pay for it – approx. \$420 a year
- Heartworm, Flea and tick prevention: \$400 annually
- Supplies – collar, leash, tags, microchip, crate, bowls, bed – around \$200 – 300
- Pet rental fees charged by your landlord

3. ARE YOU PHYSICALLY ABLE TO PROVIDE FOOD, CARE AND EXERCISE?

- Can you get the dog in and out of your car?
- Can you carry bags of food, bowls of water,
- Handle the dog pulling on a leash?
- Walk the dog for an hour/Play with the dog
- Get the dog to the vet

BEFORE YOU GET A DOG, ASK YOURSELF:

4. CAN YOU COMMIT TO CARING FOR A DOG FOR ITS LIFETIME? Dogs can live between 10 and 18 years.

If you do not own your home, you will need to find pet friendly rentals each time you move for the pet's entire life. Small breeds like Chihuahuas and Toy Poodles often live 14-18 years. Medium-sized breeds like Golden Retrievers typically have a lifespan of 11-14 years. Large breeds such as Great Danes usually live between 7 to 10 years.

5. CAN YOUR HOME ACCOMMODATE A DOG?

Will your landlord allow you to have pets?

Do you have a yard for potty breaks?

Do you have a fenced in yard?

Is your home safe for a pet?

Do you have a crate in a size suitable for your pet?

TO BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER:

- You must provide your dog with a suitable environment to live in, suitable and sufficient food, and daily exercise.
- You must provide basic training as well as socialization so he acts appropriately around other humans and other dogs
- Make plans for the full lifespan of your pet.
- Partner with your veterinarian for preventive care, such as examinations, vaccinations, and parasite control, as well appropriate treatment for your pet's illnesses and injuries.
- Prevent your pet from negatively impacting other people, animals and the environment through Rabies and other vaccinations, proper waste disposal, noise control, and not allowing your pet to stray or become feral.
- Do your part to address our country's pet overpopulation problem and avoid unplanned breeding through spay/ neuter, containment, or managed breeding.
- **PREPARE FOR THE UNEXPECTED**
 - Make sure your pet is properly identified (i.e., tags, microchips, tattoos, clear photographs) and that the registration information in associated databases is kept up to date.
 - Prepare in advance to ensure your pet's well-being in the case of an emergency or disaster, including assembling an evacuation kit.
 - Make alternate arrangements if you can no longer provide care for your pet.