

## *Are You Ready To Adopt?*

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Often, a dog or cat is adopted and everyone assumes it will be smooth sailing from the get-go. This is not always the case. More often than not, they need time to adjust and the new owner should be equipped with the knowledge and tools to make the adoption a success, rather than finding themselves frustrated to the point of returning the animal before ample time to de-stress. Please make sure you're prepared and committed to your new pet, no matter what it takes to make it work. Remember, patience, love, knowledge and commitment are all part of the equation.

Here are some items to consider:

1. Adopt the pet of your choice, and take your time choosing! We have a meet and greet room for you to get acquainted with the pet. If you wish to bring your current pet to the meet and greet, please make those arrangements with us in advance. When choosing a pet we will be happy to advise you on the pro's/con's of various breeds. Some pets are better suited to indoors and low exercise needs, while others have more energy and special needs. ASK US!!
2. Never gift anyone with a pet! It is such a personal decision to choose the pet you will care for for 15 years, no one should assume they know what to get for a friend. 'Returns' are very hard on a shelter pet.
3. Domestic animals depend on humans for their care and love. Before adding a new member to your family, ask yourself; Do I have the necessary time and willingness to socialize/train a new pet? If not, we would rather you came back when your circumstances change.
4. Can you afford a pet? The adoption fees are just the first step. There will be at least one annual veterinary check up per year, some prescription items, plus quality food and some toy expenses.
5. Pets need your care almost 24/7. Who will care for your pet when you are away on vacation or perhaps will be deployed? Does your landlord allow pets? (some charge a pet fee)
6. Do you have a safe area to contain your animal when you are not home? We do not approve of dogs kept on chains. They can choke.

For more information, please visit this valuable resource: <http://www.asPCA.org/>