

# IS NOW THE RIGHT TIME TO ADOPT? Choosing the Right Pet



## HERE ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS WHEN LOOKING TO ADOPT YOUR IDEAL MATCH:

1. Why do you want a pet? Remember, this is a lifetime commitment of care. For dogs, this may mean 10 - 15 years, cats up to 20 years and some birds up to 75 years!
2. Can you have a pet in your living situation? Some communities and apartment homes have restrictions on size, number or types of animals. Some do not allow them at all.
3. Is this a good time to adopt a pet? Regular travel or moving with the military can make pet ownership challenging.
4. Does your chosen pet fit your lifestyle? How much time will you be able to spend with your pet? Do you have enough space for your pet inside and out?
5. Can you afford the cost of pet ownership? Vet visits, food, supplies, training, grooming and boarding fees while you're away can all add up.
6. Housetraining can take time and patience. Are you prepared for "accidents," medical emergencies or damage to floors and furniture?

Adopting a new pet can be a wonderful experience. But doing your research first to determine which pet is best for your family and lifestyle is important. In addition to assessing your own lifestyle, the size, age, temperament, gender and

breed of the pet all play a role in deciding the best choice for you and your family. For example, a kitten or puppy will require more time for training and socialization than an older animal. If you have any questions about the best pet for your lifestyle, don't hesitate to ask shelter staff and volunteers.

If you have children or other pets at home, the new addition may create unexpected challenges. For example, puppies under 5 months of age might do best with older children. If you are considering a cat, remember they can be independent creatures and may need extra time and space before they feel safe interacting with other family members or pets. And be sure to discuss with the family members responsible for your new pet's care before you bring your new pet home.

## MORE RESOURCES AT

[hsppr.org/resources](https://hsppr.org/resources)



**Humane Society**  
Pikes Peak Region

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