



Things to consider before adoption

- 1) Is everyone in your family ready for a new pet?
 - We recommend that everyone in the household is in agreement and **young children are introduced slowly to any animal.**
- 2) If you are not the homeowner, do you have permission from the homeowner to bring a pet into the home?
- 3) If you are renting an apartment or house, do you have your landlord's permission to add a pet to the home?
 - We recommend verifying pet policies with your apartment complex or landlord prior to adoption.
- 4) Are you aware of any breed, size, or quantity restrictions in your area?
 - We have seen people fall in love with an animal only to get them home and find out that they are not allowed to have the animal due to a restriction. Please ask our adoption counselors if you are unsure of any restrictions that may exist in your area.
- 5) Are your existing pets spayed or neutered?
 - We recommend that all healthy pets are altered to prevent unwanted pregnancies, certain behavioral issues, and potential health problems. All HSTV animals are spayed/neutered before adoption.
- 6) Do your existing pets get along well with other animals?
 - You can request a "dog meet" at the shelter to see how each animal reacts. Also ask us for more information about pet introductions.
- 7) Are your existing pets up to date on vaccines?
 - Rabies vaccines are required by law in most states including TN.
 - DAPP (Distemper, Adenovirus, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus) is highly recommended for dogs.
 - FVRCP (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, Panleukopenia) is highly recommended for cats.



- 8) Are your existing pets up to date on preventative medicine for heartworms, fleas, and ticks?
- Mosquitos, fleas, and ticks are prevalent in the south. We recommend that your pets are given monthly heartworm, flea, and tick preventatives. Ask us about the options.
- 9) Are you ready for the financial responsibility of owning a dog/cat?
- The annual cost of owning a pet is estimated to be [between \\$1100 and \\$1400](#) for food, vet care, grooming, training, boarding, toys, and treats. Vet care expenses often start in the first week of pet ownership.
- 10) Do you have the necessary space for your new pet?
- In many areas (including Knoxville and Knox County) it is **illegal** to chain or tether your dog, so you must have other methods of containing them. If you do not have a fenced-in yard, we recommend that your dog is taken outside for exercise and bathroom breaks at least four times a day. Puppies require even more trips outside for housetraining.
- 11) Are you adopting this pet as a “gift” for someone else?
- We recommend that the potential pet owner **meet** the animal before adoption. We often see people realize what type of pet they are really looking for when they handle the animal themselves.
- 12) Are you adopting a sponsored pet or an animal with special needs?
- We recommend that every adopter take their time with the adoption process. Having a pet is a big responsibility and can be up to a 20-year commitment. Please ask us for more information that will help you make this life-saving decision.