



Welcome to Pet Adoptions at Dogstar!

The fact that you're thinking of adopting an animal means you're on the right track—it's definitely the responsible, caring thing to do. The rewards of pet ownership are great, but dogs and cats require time, money, and commitment. Our goal is to place the right animal with the right home – for life! Before you adopt, please think through these questions.

Things to Consider

- Why do you want a pet? It's amazing how many people fail to ask themselves this simple question before they get a pet. Adopting a pet just because it's "the thing to do" or because the kids have been pining for a puppy usually ends up being a big mistake. Don't forget that pets may be with you 10, 15, even 20 years.
- Do you have time for a pet? Dogs, cats, and other animal companions cannot be ignored just because you're tired or busy. They require food, water, exercise, care, and companionship every day of every year. Many animals in the shelter are there because their owners didn't realize how much time it took to care for them.
- Can you afford a pet? The costs of pet ownership can be quite high. Licenses, training classes, veterinary care, grooming, toys, food, kitty litter, and other expenses add up quickly.
- Are you prepared to deal with special problems that a pet can cause? Flea infestations, scratched-up furniture, accidents from animals that aren't yet housetrained, and unexpected medical emergencies are unfortunate but potential aspects of pet ownership.
- Can you have a pet where you live? Many rental communities don't allow pets, and most of the rest have restrictions. Make sure you know what they are before you bring a companion animal home.
- Is it a good time for you to adopt a pet? If you have kids under six years old, for instance, you might consider waiting a few years before you adopt a companion. Pet ownership requires children who are mature enough to be responsible. If you're a student, in the military, or travel frequently as part of your work, waiting until you settle down is wise.
- Are your living arrangements suitable for the animal you have in mind? Animal size is not the only variable to think about here. For example, some small dogs such as terriers are very active—they require a great deal of exercise to be calm, and they often bark at any noise. On the other hand, some big dogs are laid back and quite content to lie on a couch all day. Before adopting a pet, please do some research. That way, you'll ensure you choose an animal who will fit into your lifestyle and your living arrangements.
- Will you be a responsible pet owner? Having your pet spayed or neutered, obeying community leash and licensing laws, and keeping identification tags on your pets are all part of being a responsible owner. Of course, giving your pet love, companionship, exercise, a healthy diet, and regular veterinary care are other essentials.
- Kittens & Puppies versus Adult Cats & Dogs: There are few things more adorable than a kitten or puppy. They are entertaining and full of fun. However, they typically will have more needs for attention and supervision than adult animals. An adult animal may settle in faster, be housebroken, more predictable, and yes, you can still teach them new tricks! You must also consider the ages of your children and their interactions with animals, someone (child or pet) might play too roughly.
- Purebred versus Mixed Breeds: Many people have personal ties to specific breeds which makes them great adopters because they know what to expect in that breed's temperament and behavior. However, mixed breeds are great too, typically you get the best traits of two breeds and avoid health issues certain purebreds are prone to. Ultimately, we want you to select the animal that best fits your home & lifestyle. With rescue groups for every breed, there is no excuse to buy a purebred, if you need help with a purebred search, contact. www.nwdogrescue.com.
- Finally, are you prepared to keep and care for the pet for his or her entire lifetime? When you adopt a pet, you are making a commitment to care for the animal for his or her lifetime.

Dogstar llc – 1313 NW Kearney St. Portland OR 97209 – 503.227.0292 – www.dogstar.us