



Selecting Your Next Family Member

Think of your next pet as the only family member you can choose! What attributes would make this new family member assimilate into your family more easily? What potential features in a dog would be problematic for your situation? In almost all cases, temperament and compatibility with your lifestyle are far more important in the success of an adoption than any aspect of appearance.

Please take the time now to carefully consider your choice, so that you can live with that choice for the remainder of your pet's natural life. Aspects of your lifestyle to consider include:

Time

How many hours a day will you have available for your dog, providing exercise, play or companionship? How many hours a day will your dog need to be alone while you are at work? (Consider the age of the pet you want to adopt – young puppies need to go out frequently for potty breaks and require far more supervision and training than an adult dog.)

Energy

Are you exhausted at the end of the day, or invigorated and ready for a three mile hike? (Take a look at the exercise requirements for the pet you are considering.)

Patience

How many times are you willing to repeat a training exercise until your dog gets it? (Puppies require far more repetitions than adult dogs!)

Children

Are there now, or will there be in the future, resident children in the home? What about visiting children? (Aggression and fear issues with young puppies are usually not evident until at least six months of age and young puppies may be too fragile for small children. Older dogs not well socialized to children can pose a serious safety risk. Young, placid adult or adolescent dogs with mild temperaments and low prey drives may be a better choice, but ask a member of our kennel staff or our dog trainer for a recommendation.)

Activity Level of the Household

Is your house a buzz of constant activity or is it quiet and calm? (Look at how social or how shy your potential pet is and consider whether or not he or she will be happy in your home.)

Other Pets

Do you have cats or other dogs? (Find out how your choice does with other animals, and make sure that everyone gets along as well as possible before you take your new pet home. You should also be prepared with an alternative plan in the event that things don't go as smoothly as you might hope once the new pet comes home.