

# Pet Adoption Checklist

By Nicole Nichols-West

- ☐ Pet Type Selection
  - ☐ Decide if you want a pet to be your quiet companion, or to participate actively in your life
  - ☐ Consider your living arrangements and any regulations on what kind of animals are allowed
  - ☐ Take into account any allergies or health issues that might make some pets an unwise choice
  - ☐ Figure out what sort of pet your work or school schedule will accommodate
- ☐ Get Background
  - ☐ Ask where the pet you are considering came from and avoid illegal or questionable sources
  - ☐ Find out about the pet's parents if possible, as well as any genetic issues
  - ☐ Request proof of vaccinations and other preventive medical treatment
  - ☐ If possible, have a veterinarian check out the animal and obtain a clean bill of health
- ☐ Pet-Proof Your Home
  - ☐ Ensure that all electrical cords are out of your pet's reach
  - ☐ Remove any small items that could lead to choking, and any items that could be easily destroyed
  - ☐ Make the yard secure if your pet will be allowed outdoors
- ☐ Lay in supplies
  - ☐ Obtain the necessary cage or shelter for your pet, if needed
  - ☐ Select healthy food, treats and/or supplements for your new pet
  - ☐ Purchase accessories such as toys, collars/leashes, food and water bowls, and hygienic items
  - ☐ Buy a book about your pet to inform yourself about its care
- ☐ Extra Care
  - ☐ Arrange for grooming services if needed
  - ☐ Call a veterinarian to schedule checkups/neutering if needed
  - ☐ Purchase a pet health insurance if applicable
  - ☐ Tag, tattoo or microchip your pet if possible to safeguard against loss

- ☐ Sign up for a pet training course if applicable
- ☐ Hire a dog walker if necessary
- ☐ Select a boarding facility in case you go out of town