

# 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