

PETS

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PET CHECKLIST

- Avoid purchasing the current pet of the hour
- Avoid purchasing a pet on a whim
- Determine why you want a pet
- How does your lifestyle fit with the desired pet
- Educate yourself on your desired pet
 - How long will the pet live
 - How big will the pet grow
 - How much space does the pet need (yard, pen, cage)
 - How much of your time per day does the pet need

Tip: Your pet may require more time when young and when old or if you pet becomes ill.
- What is the pet's personality traits
- What type of care will the pet require
 - Time required each day
 - Who will provide daily care
- What pet is best for your climate
- What maintenance issues may result (sheds, climbs curtains, damages furniture or carpeting)
- What are the noise issues (barks, chirps)
- Is the pet child-friendly
- What are the special needs of pet
- What are the costs and expenses for the pet
 - Purchase cost
 - Vaccinations and neutering costs
 - Food costs
 - Medical, routine veterinary costs
 - Medical, emergency costs
 - Medical, prescription and medication costs
 - Training costs
 - Boarding costs
 - Petsitter costs
 - Grooming costs
 - Toys and accessories
 - Fencing, carrying case, pens
 - End of life costs
- Other Issues
 - Allergies
 - Rules and regulations of homeowner's associations or landlords
 - Is someone available to supervise pet when small children are available
 - Is an area to exercise and walk pets available
- Can you pet proof your home (remove harmful plants, obstacles such as stairways)
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