

Should You Get A Dog?

Things to Consider Before Deciding on a New Dog

Who will be the one to walk, feed, clean up after, train, play with, groom the dog, get him licensed and provide medical care? Be realistic, it's a job for adults or responsible older children. If you have children, can you teach them to be respectful of the new puppy?

Have you considered the costs involved in caring for a dog, like food, equipment, vet bills, a license and insurance? (Min. \$300.)

Do you have permission from your landlord, preferably in writing?

How will you teach him the rules of the house? Chewing, barking, digging, housesoiling, etc., are normal dog behaviors. Dogs usually continue these behaviors until effectively trained. Can your family accept this and be patient, kind, and consistent during the teaching process?

Do you have enough space to house the dog properly? How will you keep the dog under control? Barking and free-roaming pets are a nuisance to neighbors, endanger the dog, and it's against the law.

Will you mind hair shedding, fleas, and odors (varies from dog to dog) or will it annoy and burden you? Do you, your friends or relatives have an allergic reaction to pet hair?

Will you be a responsible pet owner by providing vaccinations and spaying or neutering your pet?

Do you have enough time and energy for daily activities? Will it be difficult to spend time to train, exercise, and groom? Will the pet blend into your routine or will it become an annoyance or burden?

Do you have the emotional stability and staying power to be a responsible owner for the lifetime of your dog?



San Bernardino County
Animal Care & Control Program

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