

# Pet care checklist

This checklist is for anyone looking to get a pet and learn about caring for them

Here are some of the ways you can plan before getting an animal  
(You can tick them off as you go through them):



- ☐ Am I prepared to love and look after a pet for life?
- ☐ Have I researched the pet I am looking to purchase or adopt?
- ☐ How long do they live?



- ☐ Can I afford a pet?
- ☐ Have I completed a budget?
- ☐ Do I understand the costs of owning a pet including food, vet bills, bedding, toys, insurance, boarding?
- ☐ Do I need support to budget for a pet?



- ☐ Do I live in a home where I can have a pet?
- ☐ Does my home let me have pets? Did I ask my landlord?
- ☐ Is there enough space in my home and yard for my animal to run around, sleep and toilet?
- ☐ Do I need to have someone help me to clean up after my pet?



- ☐ Do I understand how to care for a pet?
- ☐ Have I got information about the needs of a pet I want to get?
- ☐ What do I know about their food, health, exercise, shelter and toileting needs?
- ☐ How often do they need to see a vet? What medication and vaccinations do they need?
- ☐ How can I tell my pet is unwell?



- ☐ Do I have time to care for a pet?
- ☐ Do I understand how much time it takes to care for a pet each day?
- ☐ Do I have time for daily walks, playtime and training?



- ☐ Will a pet fit into my lifestyle, daily activities, and priorities?
- ☐ How much time do I spend at home?
- ☐ Who will keep my pet company when I am not at home?

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Here are some of the ways you can be a responsible pet owner  
(You can tick them off as you go through them):

- ☐ 1. Provide your pet with a balanced diet.
- ☐ 2. Make sure your pet has access to clean, cool drinking water all of the time.
- ☐ 3. Some pets need to be exercised everyday such as going for a daily walk or playing a game of fetch.
- ☐ 4. You will need to make sure that you have bedding, housing, and shelter for your pet, this could mean a kennel for a dog or a cage for a bird.
- ☐ 5. Keep your pet safe and secure. Dogs need to be on lead when walked outside. Cats are safest indoors. Small animals need secure enclosures.
- ☐ 6. So that your pet does not get bored, spend time with your pet and have lots of playtime. Pets also like to have toys to keep them busy.
- ☐ 7. Make sure that you have a local vet who you can take your pet to whenever it is sick or hurt. Book medical check-ups as needed (including for vaccinations and flea and worming treatments).
- ☐ 8. It is the law to microchip your pet and register it with your local council so it can be returned to you if it becomes lost. You can contact your local council to help you with this.
- ☐ 9. You will need to speak with your vet about de-sexing your pet at an early age to prevent unwanted offspring.
- ☐ 10. Your pet might need grooming such as baths and haircuts, this might need to be done regularly.
- ☐ 11. Most pets need to be socialised with other animals and people, particularly at a young age so give your pet safe opportunities for meeting others.
- ☐ 12. Teach your family, friends, and children how to connect with your pet.
- ☐ 13. Make sure that you know who can care for your pet if you are going on a holiday or needing to go into hospital.