



# BEFORE YOU CONSIDER ADOPTION

## ARE YOU READY?

- 1. Do I have time for a pet?** Pets are companions and family members. Good friends and family members are the result of commitment and investment of time. Even smaller pets such as guinea pigs and rabbits require daily interaction to stay healthy and happy. Companion animals also benefit from training - it helps to teach them how to interact with people, and in some cases, other animals.
- 2. Can I afford pet care?** Healthy food, litter, toys, annual veterinary exams, preventative care, training, and more. The average cost to own a dog is \$1,550 a year and the average cost to own a cat is \$800 a year. This doesn't include possible one-time costs for emergency vet care.
- 3. Does my lifestyle have room for a pet?** Different animals and breeds of animals have different needs as pets. What's your match? Are you the outdoorsy type? Are you a couch potato? Are you away from home a lot? Do you have young children? Does anyone in your family have allergies? Different breeds have different needs - plan ahead to make sure their needs fit with yours.
- 4. What's down the road for me?** Some dogs and cats can live for 20 years or more; while a parrot can live longer than a person. What are the changes you can expect over the life of your pet - moving, having children or maybe returning to school and how will your furry friend fit with your plans?
- 5. Is my home the right match?** Large breed and high-energy animals require space to run; is there a fenced yard? Will you commit to daily exercise with your pet? If you rent, does your landlord allow pets?
- 6. Can I count on some help from my friends?** Kids and pets alike and sometimes need a caregiver other than their parents e.g. for vacations, unplanned long days at work, or in an emergency situation. Do you have a reliable friend, neighbour, relative or boarding kennel that can care for your pet in these situations?
- 7. Will you follow the rules?** Hamilton and Burlington have bylaws designed to keep both animals and people safe. Are you willing to abide by these municipal laws?
- 8. Why do you want a pet?** Consider your motivations and whether a pet can accomplish these goals. For example, are you trying to teach your children to be responsible? Keep in mind - a child should be seven years old before being expected to actively care for a pet. And remember - a family pet is a family responsibility! There is lots of love and care to be shared when taking on pet duties.

Think you're ready? Before meeting your match, be sure to select a veterinarian to ensure a happy and healthy life for your new companion.

**For more information on adopting a pet, contact [info@hbspca.com](mailto:info@hbspca.com) or call 905-574-7722 ext. 305**