

# BOSS PAWS™

## What To Consider When Adopting A Critter

- What is the energy level of family members and pets in your home? Adopting a new pet with an energy level that matches the energy level of family members and current pets can help everyone enjoy each other. If you are looking for a very calm critter, you may want to consider adopting an older pet.
- Do you have any current pets in the home? You will need to make sure your new pet gets along with any other animals already living in the home.
- Children in the home means you need a pet who will enjoy being around kids. Some pets are comfortable with older kids but are nervous around younger children. Some pets like being around kids of all ages. This can depend on the pet's personality and his experiences with children in the past.
- Do you plan on traveling with your pet or meeting lots of new people and animals with your pet? Some pets think these things sound FUR-bulous and others would rather just hang out with you and no one else. Some pets are outgoing and some are shy.
- Do you have time and patience to train your new pet? House-training and teaching basic "good-dog" behavior takes some daily effort and commitment. Puppies, dogs with high energy, and dogs who are nose level with countertops are just a few examples of dogs who can be a particular problem if not taught some basic "good-dog" behavior.
- What is your lifestyle and the overall lifestyle of family members? Will someone be able to let your pet out and feed him/her on a regular basis? Who will exercise your pet?
- How much grooming are you willing to do for your new pet? A sheepdog requires a lot more grooming than a Labrador. A Persian kitty requires regular combing but a short hair tabby does not. Consider time and cost of your new pet's grooming needs.
- How much food will your new pet eat? What are possible health risks of your new pet? Certain breeds and sizes of pets are known to have particular health problems that are likely to require more vet care.
- What is the size of your home? Some pets take up more space than others. How will your pet get exercise? Do you have a yard? Do you plan to walk your pet, do agility or some other activity as a form of exercise?
- Do you want a pet who requires daily mental and physical stimulation? German Shepherds and Border Collies like to have a task or job to do. They are examples of breeds who require more interaction to be happy and content. A Basset Hound, on the other hand, likes to take it easy.
- What about lizards, birds, rabbits, fish, and all the other species you might consider for a pet? Make sure you research how much time, money and energy you need to invest in them to give them a good quality of life.