



What A Pet Is Not

A pet is not a toy

A pet is a living being who has a need for love and proper care for its entire life span. He/she needs to be fed often while young. Also, a young pet is especially vulnerable to broken bones and other injuries from careless treatment.

A pet is not a teaching aid

A pet should not be obtained to instill a sense of responsibility in children. It is unfair to place an animal's entire well-being in the hands of children. Feeding, grooming, housebreaking, and discipline training of an animal should be the principal responsibilities of adults. Responsibility education for children is better left for household tasks where an animal's needs are not at stake.

A pet is not cheap

The adoption fee for a pet is small compared to the cost of veterinary care for routine and emergency treatment over the dog's life. In addition, there are licensing fees and the inevitable damage to personal property to consider.

A pet is not a gift or a spontaneous purchase

Animal shelters are overrun with dogs who were acquired for the wrong reasons or without sufficient investigation and personal commitment.

A pet is not self-cleaning

Animals can neither groom themselves nor clean up after themselves and, therefore, impose additional attention in a household.

A kitten or puppy has different needs than an adult

Having neither the physical nor mental abilities of an adult animal, a kitten, or puppy cannot wait long periods of time before relieving itself, nor can it differentiate between what a toy or food and what is not. They require patience, understanding, and supervision just as human infants do. If you do not have the time for training and play, an older pet may be a better match.

This document is being provided for informational purposes only and is not intended as veterinary or behavioral counsel.