



### Things to consider before adoption

- 1) Is everyone in your family ready for a new pet?
  - We recommend that everyone in the household is in agreement and **young children are introduced slowly to any animal.**
- 2) If you are not the homeowner, do you have permission from the homeowner to bring a pet into the home?
- 3) If you are renting an apartment or house, do you have your landlord's permission to add a pet to the home?
  - We recommend verifying pet policies with your apartment complex or landlord prior to adoption.
- 4) Are you aware of any breed, size or quantity restrictions in your area?
  - We have seen people fall in love with an animal and get it home only to find out that they are not allowed to have the animal due to a restriction. Please ask our adoption counselors if you are unsure of any restrictions that may exist.
- 5) Are your existing pets spayed or neutered?
  - We recommend that all healthy pets are altered by **four months** of age to prevent unwanted pregnancies, certain behavior issues and potential health problems.
- 6) Are your existing pets up to date on vaccines such as rabies and distemper/parvo?
  - We recommend that you introduce a new pet to other pets that are fully vaccinated.
- 7) Do your existing pets get along well with other animals?
  - You can request a "dog meet" at the shelter to see how each animal reacts. Also ask us for more information about **pet introductions.**
- 8) Are your existing pets up to date on preventative medicine for heartworms, fleas and ticks?
  - Mosquitos, fleas and ticks are prevalent in the South. We recommend that your pets are given monthly heartworm, flea and tick preventatives. Ask us about the options.

- 9) Are you ready for the financial responsibility of owning a dog or cat?
- The annual cost of owning a pet is estimated between \$750 and \$1,500 for food, vet care, grooming, training, boarding, toys and treats. Vet care expenses often start in the first week of owning your pet.
- 10) If you are adopting a dog, do you have a fenced in yard?
- We recommend, and it is the law in Knoxville and Knox County, that you have a way to contain your dog, other than chaining or tethering. If you do not have a fence, we recommend that the dog is taken outside for exercise and bathroom breaks at least four times a day. Puppies require even more trips outside for housetraining.
- 11) Are you adopting this pet as a “gift” for someone else?
- We recommend that the potential pet owner **meet** the animal before adoption. We often see people realize what type of pet they are really looking for when they handle the animal themselves.
- 12) Are you adopting a sponsored animal or an animal with special needs?
- We recommend that every adopter take their time with the adoption process. Having a pet is a big responsibility and can be up to a 20 year commitment. Please ask us for more information that will help you make this life saving decision 😊