



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release

Wet Noses Under the Tree

Nothing could make a child happier than finding a wriggling puppy or kitten under the tree Christmas morning. Winter break seems the perfect time to integrate a pet into your family, plenty of time for house training, playing and acclimating to your schedule.

Or is it?

The holidays can be a busy, stressful time in the best of circumstances. Bringing a pet into your home has many considerations that go along with it. Basic care including training, food, health care and housing must be considered for the long term. Dogs can live 15 yrs or more, cats 20 yrs or more.

Local dog trainer Anna Ellsworth, www.CanineTrainingEssentials.com recommends “After the holiday season, when your attention is not pulled in multiple directions is a better time to bring a pet home. When looking to include a cat or dog in your family answer the following questions.”

Is anyone in the household allergic? This is one of the top ten reasons pets are relinquished to a shelter.

Do I have the time and energy to devote to a kitten or puppy? Raising either is a rewarding experience that includes a bit of work, too. Training class for puppies through their first year, safe confinement while you are away & supervision when you are at home for both should always be considered.

Would an older pet work out better? There are many older pets that are house trained and have basic manners waiting for a good home at your local shelter or rescue organization. You will find many breeds and mixes represented.

Large dog or small? They all start out small, but do consider what the adult weight of the pet you are considering. The larger the pet, the more expensive to feed and care for.

Long hair that needs daily brushing and scheduled grooming or short haired? Dogs have different coat types. Decide if you have the time in your schedule for daily brushing or would you opt for regular appointments at the groomer to keep your dogs’ coat in good shape. Cats are basically self sufficient, but may need help if of the long haired variety.

A high energy dog that needs lots of exercise or a couch potato? If you like the outdoors, jog, ride a bike or want to get involved in dog sports an active breed may fit in just right. If you take an occasional walk and are more sedentary, a less active, older dog or cat may be a better choice. Cats crave interaction and exercise too, but these needs can be met without going outside.

Adopt from a local shelter or purchase from a reputable breeder? By adopting you can give a good home to a pet in need. If you have your heart set on a specific breed, check your local shelter or designated rescue group first, then a reputable breeder. American Kennel Club www.akc.org lists breeders by state. Impulse purchases at a pet store don't usually work out well. Your pet will be with you for along time and is worth the wait while you do your research.

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