

## SELECTING A PET FROM THE SHELTER

If you are thinking of choosing the newest member of your family from the local shelter or rescue group, follow these handy guidelines for selecting the right pet for you.

If you have a very busy family who can't spend lots of time with a pet, consider a cat. While cats require attention every day, they're somewhat more independent than canines.



If you have toddlers or very young children, consider adopting an adult dog larger than a Toy breed. Diminutive Toy breeds (and kitty cats too) are more fragile, and can accidentally get injured if a child mishandles them.

For senior citizens who have been there and done that, and no longer want to deal with house-training, all is not lost. A middle-aged or senior citizen pet might be the perfect match.

No time for grooming? Choose a shorter-haired dog or cat who has a wash-and-wear coat. (Those beautiful long coats come with the price of frequent brushing).

All family members - including the kids - should be part of the adoption process. For one thing, it's one way to determine how "kid friendly" the pet might be. A sense of involvement also leads to a sense of responsibility.

Be sure your kids know the difference between a pet and a stuffed toy.