

Thinking about getting a pet?



What kind of pet is right for you?

- Do you want a **dog** or a **cat** or other type of pet?
- Do you want a **small**, **medium**, or **large** pet?
- Do you want a pet that is **calm** or **active**?
- How much **time** do you have to care for, walk, play with, and train your pet?
- Can you keep them **safe**, **clean**, and **healthy**?

What do pets need everyday?

To be happy and healthy, pets need:

- Good food
- Fresh, clean water
- Shade and shelter from sun, wind, and rain
- A safe, comfortable place to sleep
- Dogs need daily exercise
- A secure yard or enclosure
- Medicines to stop fleas, ticks, worms, and mites
- Health care if they are sick or hurt
- Love and companionship



Before you bring a pet home, plan carefully.

Pets are part of the family and need care every day.





Can you afford a pet?

Pets cost money, even after you've got them. As their owner, you need to pay for:

- Food
- Medicines to stop fleas, ticks, worms and mites
- Collars, leads, bedding, and kennels
- Vet care if your pet is sick or injured

It's important to consider that larger pets usually cost more because they need more food and larger doses of medicines.



**Remember: a pet is for life.
Your pet is your responsibility.**



Being a responsible pet owner

- **Train puppies** so they behave well and don't cause problems like barking or digging.
- **Socialise** pets so they are friendly with people and other animals.
- **Desex** dogs and cats to stop too many puppies and kittens. Desexing also helps pets live longer and stay healthy.
- **Register** your pet if your local council requires it.
- If you go away, **take your pet with you or arrange for someone to care for them.**
- **Keep your yard clean and pick up your pet's poo in public places.** Pet poo can attract flies and spread disease.
- **Don't let pets roam.** They can get injured, annoy neighbours, and harm wildlife.
 - Keep cats inside at night to protect wildlife.
 - If you have fencing, keep your dogs in the yard unless you are out with them.

Before you get a pet, **talk with your family!**
Decide:



- Who will feed the pet?
- Who will walk the dog?
- Who will clean up after the pet?
- Are children old enough to treat animals gently?

Help is available

When vets visit they can:

- Desex pets.
- Microchip pets.
- Treat sick or injured pets.
- Euthanise animals when needed.



For more information, talk to your **Animal Management Worker, Environmental Health Worker, Vet or AMRRIC**