

Create a Pet Plan for Life

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Choosing a Companion

There are many factors to take into consideration when deciding what type of pet is best suited for your home and family.

- Cost
- Space
- Time



Choosing a Companion

Cost

- How much is it to adopt / purchase?
- Initial “set up”
- Continued care
- Toys and other play items
- Quality food



Choosing a Companion

Cost

- Veterinary care
- Who cares for the pet when you are out of town?
- Obedience classes



Choosing a Companion

SPACE

How much room do you have to fill the needs of the pet?

- This may literally be your home or yard.
- Can be an appropriate area of your home for the type of environment / cage the pet requires.
- If choosing a dog, the energy level of the dog is as important IF NOT more important than the size of the dog.



Choosing a Companion

A word about cages, tanks, aquariums, etc.

All too often caged pets are forced to live in environments that are too small, depleted of mental and or physical stimulation and often unsanitary.



Choosing a Companion

A word about cages, tanks, aquariums, etc.

Rarely would these animals choose to sleep, eat, play and defecate in such a small area. If you are choosing a caged pet, please do not skimp on the environment you are choosing for this animal to live in for the rest of its life.



Choosing a Companion

TIME

How much time do you and your family have to provide for the basic needs of the pet? These include:

- Grooming
- Cage cleaning / poop patrol
- Feeding
- Health check / physical to make sure pet is healthy
- Mental and physical activity?



Choosing a Companion

TIME

- Social time?
- How do you spend your free time? This is one area where you have to be brutally honest with yourself. You may think the idea of a dog is great but if you enjoy quiet time indoors with a book or movie, well a cat may be a better option (or a really old dog - they need loving families too!)



Training Your New Pet

REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

- Regardless of species, all pets will need some time to adjust to a new home, environment, schedule, and diet.
- **CONSISTENCY!** All family members must agree on what is or is not allowed.
- Rewarding the positive will result in that behavior happening more frequently!



Training Your New Pet

REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

- If a pet has the run of the house and you are not able to directly supervise it, that means you are not teaching the pet that it is not ok!
- Often even punishment is seen as some level of a reward to a pet. After all it is attention and a pet will often accept bad attention when there is NO attention



Training Your New Pet

BASIC TOOLS

Exercise and mental stimulation are vital to training

- A tired puppy sleeps, a bored puppy chews.
- A busy kitten may climb the couch; a redirected kitten plays with a toy, then sleeps for 10 hours!
- A house rabbit unsupervised may chew the electric cord; the house rabbit with great chew toys provided in a safe area will be entertained for quite sometime.



Training Your New Pet

BASIC TOOLS

No animal should be left unsupervised. Those of you that are parents did not leave your infant or toddler running free when you were unable to directly watch over them.

We don't expect human children to know what is and isn't safe, why is it we expect so much more from our pets?



Training Your New Pet

Obedience Classes

These are so much more than sit, down, and stay. They are a great way for dog and person to bond. A good class will teach you how to teach your dog in an efficient and humane manner.

Even better is if your children are able to participate and start establishing themselves as a leader.



Training Your New Pet

Obedience Classes

Socialization is so important for dogs and a lack of it can cause significant behavior problems. The more a dog is exposed to as a puppy, the more well-rounded an adult dog he or she will become.

Look around the shelter, we are full of adolescent large breed dogs. If only their people had taken them to school....



Your Pet's Best Friend (besides you!)

Locating the right veterinarian for your pet:

- ❖ Ask for referrals from other pet guardians
- ❖ Pick one located closest to your home
- ❖ Scour the yellow pages
- ❖ Rely on professional veterinary websites

www.healthypet.com

www.veterinarians.com

www.acvim.org

www.colovma.com



Your Pet's Best Friend (besides you!)

Interview a prospective veterinarian the same way you would your child's pediatrician.

- Do your philosophies mesh – your pet is family, but does the veterinarian feel the same way?
- Traditional versus holistic approach to veterinary care
- Do they allow clients to make payments on larger bills – will they work with you during difficult times?



Your Pet's Best Friend (besides you!)

Animal Emergency Care Centers

North

5520 N. Nevada Ave. in Veterinary Specialty Center
(719) 260-7141

Full-service including hospitalization
Open M-TH, 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.,
Weekends & holidays open 24 hours



Your Pet's Best Friend (besides you!)

Animal Emergency Care Centers

South

3775 Airport Rd. just west of Academy Blvd.

(719) 578-9300

Urgent care – no hospitalization available

Open M-F, 6 p.m. to midnight,

Sat/Sun noon to midnight,

Holidays 6 p.m. to midnight



Your Pet's Best Friend (besides you!)

Powers Pet Emergency

5956 Stetson Hills Blvd. just north of King Soopers

(719) 387-7858

Full-service care for small animals

(dogs, cats, birds)

Open 24 hours a day/7 days a week



Your Pet's Best Friend (besides you!)

Monument Animal Urgent Care

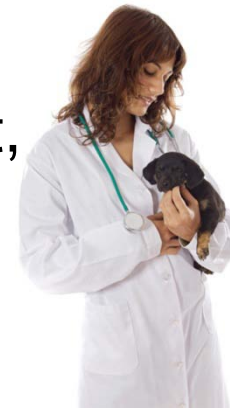
1024 W. Baptist Rd. in King Sooper's Shopping Ctr.
(719) 487-9093

Full-service veterinary care

Open Monday-Friday, 6 p.m. to midnight,

Sat. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.,

Sundays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Creating a Veterinary Fund

**Now that you've chosen a veterinarian,
how do you pay for services?**

- Designate a credit card for veterinary expenses only.
- Apply for CareCredit – don't wait for an emergency.
to do this! www.carecredit.com or 800-677-0718.
- Create a separate fund and add to it.



Creating a Veterinary Fund

**Now that you've chosen a veterinarian,
how do you pay for services?**

- Give up/cut back on a bad habit or luxury –
cigarettes - \$5.00/pack, 1 pack x 52 weeks = \$260.00/yr.
designer coffee – average \$3.00/cup, 2 cups x 52 weeks = \$312.00/yr.
magazines – average \$4.00 each x 52 weeks = \$208.00/yr.
six pack of beer – average \$6.00 x 52 weeks = \$312.00/yr.
fast food (Taco Bell) – \$7.00/meal, 1 meal x 52 weeks = \$364.00/yr.
movie theatre (family of 3) – tickets only \$21 x 12 months = \$252.00/yr.
(with popcorn, drinks - \$41 x 12 months = \$492.00/yr.)

Creating a Veterinary Fund

**Now that you've chosen a veterinarian,
how do you pay for services?**

- Utilize online fundraising sites and promote via social media

www. Investedin.com

www. Chipin.com

www. GiveForward.com

- Invest in pet insurance or wellness plan
 - is it worth the cost?
 - what does it cover/not cover?
 - do I really need it?



Creating a Veterinary Fund

Pet Insurance – Veterinary Cost Analysis:

Average cost for basic pet insurance = \$

Average cost for premium pet insurance = \$

Cost of routine exam with CBC no insurance = \$

Cost of exam with insurance coverage = \$

Cost of average emergency no insurance = \$

Cost of emergency with insurance coverage = \$

Cost of cancer treatment no insurance = \$

Cost of cancer treatment with insurance = \$

Creating a Veterinary Fund

Pet Insurance Pros

- ✓ Lots of options from which to choose.
- ✓ Basic plans from \$10/month.
- ✓ Can save you \$\$\$\$\$ with emergencies/major care.

And...Cons

- ✓ Reimbursement basis – most clinics require payment at time service is rendered.
- ✓ Have to request payments and wait for check.
- ✓ Have to pay premiums whether you or not you use it.

Pet Proofing Your Home

Indoor Hazards and Solutions

- Electrical cords
- Heavy objects
- Plants – know which are safe or toxic – visit www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/index.jsp?page=2 for a complete listing of toxic plants



Pet Proofing Your Home

Indoor Hazards and Solutions

- Cleaning solutions
- Human foods and OTC medications – know which are safe/unsafe for your pet – visit...

www.harleys-hopefoundation.org/services.htm

...and click on link at bottom of home page.

- In case of accidental poisoning contact your veterinary emergency room or the ASPCA 24 Hour Poison Hotline (\$65.00 fee for call) at 1-888-426-4435.

Pet Proofing Your Home

Outdoor Hazards and Solutions

- Broken glass or sharp metal
- Yard tools
- Pesticides
- Antifreeze/other solvents
- Inadequate fencing or no fencing at all



Lost Pets

- Each year HSPPR receives thousands of stray animals.
- In 2010 - 9,311 cats, 11,715 dogs and 692 “other” were received as strays.
- 5,601 dogs, 360 cats and 36 “others” were found and claimed by their families.
- The community needs to do MUCH better at keeping their pets at home - particularly in the case of cats.



Lost Pets

- HSPPR has a full time staff person dedicated specifically to lost and found.
- The website has photo's of stray pets which is updated every hour.
- If you lose a pet, **DO NOT WAIT.** Come to the shelter immediately to see if your pet is here or listed in our found report section.



Pet First-Aid and CPR

**Know how to save your companion's life
in an emergency!**

- ❖ Learn pet first-aid/CPR –you'll learn:
 - rescue breathing and CPR techniques
 - how to treat an animal in shock
 - basic wound care
 - how to restrain and transport an injured animal
 - what is normal for your pet pulse, temperature, respiration rate



Pet First-Aid and CPR

- ❖ Keep a pet first-aid kit in addition to your human first-aid kit.
- ❖ Know the difference between a basic first-aid kit and an evacuation kit in case of natural disasters
- ❖ Keep the address and phone # of the nearest veterinary ER by the phone and in your first-aid kit – pet first-aid/CPR is intended to provide immediate, temporary care until your pet can be transported to a veterinary clinic



Providing for Your Pet Even After You're Gone

What happens if your pet outlives you?

- Know your state's laws regarding pets left behind and whether or not pet trusts are acknowledged
- Make arrangements with family/friends to adopt your pet
- If no family/friends are willing or available, check with a pet sanctuary or animal rescue



Providing for Your Pet Even After You're Gone

What happens if your pet outlives you?

- Once you've chosen a caregiver, create a trust within your will outlining who becomes your pet's guardian
- For additional information on creating a pet trust, visit:
www.aspca.org/pet-care/pet-care-tips/pet-trust-primer.aspx
www.animallaw.info/articles/ovuswillstrusts.htm
www.legalzoom.com

Create a Pet Plan for Life

QUESTIONS?

