



For all creatures great and small.

CHOOSING YOUR PET

When you decide that you want an animal, think carefully.

It's essential that you weigh up all elements of your lifestyle before making your choice.

The best way to select a pet is to ask yourself some basic questions - questions about your lifestyle, your family and the type of pet you want.

Think of the cost, for example.

- Can you afford the cost of feeding your dog or cat?
- Can you afford the costs of vaccinations, worming and regular veterinary visits?
- Can you afford to board your animal or get someone in to look after it when you go on holiday?

Do you have the time to spend with your pet? This is particularly important if you want a dog?

- Dogs must be walked and allowed to socialise with their own kind.
- If you work away from home, as most of us do, it's fine to own a dog, but you must be prepared to make the commitment to exercise your dog every day.

Then of course there are older people, who often make the very best pet owners, provided they choose their pet with care.

Cats, which don't need to be exercised, but love to be cuddled and petted and just purr on your lap, can provide tremendous companionship for older people.

And dogs, again if chosen correctly, are often the motivation an older person needs to maintain social contact and a reasonably active lifestyle.

Having a dog is a terrific way to make new friends. Go to your local Dog Park and you'll always find someone to talk to. The dogs become friendly, so their owners do likewise!!

And older dogs, often overlooked in favour of the cute puppy, can make wonderful companions. (remove 'for older people').

They're generally calmer and more settled which makes them even more appreciative of your love and attention.

Your more settled lifestyle matches that of your older pet.

It's a win/win situation, resulting in quality retirement companionship for both.

So, there is a dog, or a cat, for everyone.

Just think carefully about your lifestyle and financial resources before making your choice.