



**Animal Rescue**  
LOVE, LICKS, & LOYALTY

# YOUR COMPREHENSIVE PRE-ADOPTION CHECKLIST

@3lanimalrescue  
[www.3lanimalrescue.org](http://www.3lanimalrescue.org)

1. How old is the dog you're considering? What is the typical lifespan of the size and breed of the dog you're adopting? Are you ready to commit to a pet for that long?
2. Do you have time in your day to feed, walk and give a dog a minimal amount of focused attention, like play or belly rubs?
3. Have you considered the costs of owning a dog, like food, vet visits, shots, possible health issues?
4. Are you comfortable with the possible disruptions a pet can cause, like chewing and scratching of furniture or bathroom accidents?
5. Are you prepared to face possible housing limitations based on the breed and size of your dog? Does your city have restrictions on any breeds?
6. Are you willing to invest the time, and possibly cost, to train your dog? If you are choosing a dog with behavioral issues, have you considered how that could affect your day-to-day life?
7. Do you have backup care for your dog when you travel?
8. If you are adopting with a partner, have you considered who would take the dog if you were to separate? Could either of you afford the time and costs on your own?
9. What role do you want your pet to play in your life? A running companion? A couch buddy? A snuggler? Low energy? Travel buddy? Does the breed, size, and personality of the dog fit your vision?
10. What will the dog be doing during the day? Will it be home alone? Inside or outside? Will it have a dog walker or go to daycare? Will this meet the needs of the dog you're considering or affect your choice?
11. Have you decided on house rules? Will your dog be allowed on the couch or bed? Do you want them to know how to sit? Are they allowed to jump?
12. If you already have a pet(s), will they be welcoming to a new member of the family? Do you know if your new dog is friendly with dogs, cats, or other pets? I
13. If you the dog is for your kids (we strongly discourage this approach as well), are they truly capable and willing to be the daily caregiver? Who will care for the dog if they do not?
14. If the dog is a gift or a surprise (we strongly discourage either), has the person receiving the dog considered all of the above questions and affirmed to you they are capable of meeting their needs?
15. Lastly, it seems obvious, but do you know if you have an allergy to dogs?