

SHOULD YOU GET A DOG? Consider This –

- Do you have enough space to house a dog properly? How will you keep the dog under control? Barking and freeroaming dogs are a nuisance to neighbors, endanger the dog and dog laws forbid it.
- How will you teach him the rules of the house? Chewing, barking, digging, house soiling, etc. are normal dog behaviors. Dogs usually continue these behaviors until effectively trained. Can your family accept this and be patient, kind and consistent during the teaching process?
- Do you have permission from the landlord, preferably in writing?
- Do you have enough time and energy for the daily activities? Will it be difficult to spend the time (and money) to train, exercise and groom? Will the dog blend into your routine or will it become an annoyance or burden?
- Do you have the emotional stability and staying power to be a responsible owner for the lifetime of your dog?
- Who will be the one to walk, feed, clean-up after, train, play with and groom the dog. The one to get him licensed and provide him with medical care? This is a job for adults and older children. If you have children, can you teach them to be respectful of the new dog?
- Will you mind shedding, fleas and odors? Do your friends and relatives have allergic reactions to dogs?
- Have you considered the cost involved in caring for a dog, like food, equipment, vet bills, a license and insurance in some instances.
- Will you be a responsible owner by providing routine health care and develop a relationship with your own veterinary?

REASONS FOR SURRENDER

- The landlord objects to complaints from other tenants – behavioral problems
- Not enough time for the dog
- Owner moves
- Unable to housebreak or otherwise train

FACTS

- 52.3 million dogs live in the United States, 37.9% of all households own dogs, 1.5 dogs average per household
- 8/4 million dogs are euthanized each year, that means one every 3.7 seconds.
- Of the estimated 52.3 million dogs, a little less than 27% end up in shelters.
- Of the 13.9 million 44% or 6.1 million are surrendered by owners.
- 56% or 7.8 million are picked up as strays.
- Approximately 60% of all dogs entering a shelter are euthanized, 15% reclaimed, 25% adopted. One out of 5 dogs born find permanent homes.
- 25% to 40% of shelter dogs are purebred

THINK

If you never have bred before and you have the slightest inclination to breed your dog, don't. Too many stray and unwanted dogs are the product of casual breeding or accidental breeding. When a dog is born from an unplanned litter, chances are it will be condemned to a life of misery, depravation and death.

CARING FOR AN OLDER DOG (AKC pamphlet)

As dogs get older their needs will change and they may become more prone to sickness. In order to ensure the older dog's comfort, remember the following:

- Routine is important to older dogs. Without it they can become confused.
- Dogs become accustomed to a certain size and type of food. They also expect to find their food dish in the same spot and to be fed at a regular time.
- Overweight dogs may die prematurely because degenerative diseases develop faster. Diets should be low in calories.
- If dogs are too thin, they should receive a high calorie diet and see a vet. They could have an infection, blood disorder or parasites.
- Always have water available. Fluids are important for older dogs because water carries waste through the kidneys.
- Vitamins and minerals are vital for an older dog's metabolism
- Watch the older dog carefully for signs of illness. Symptoms of illness become less conspicuous as dogs age.
- Avoid exposing dogs to a chill. It might reduce their resistance to disease. If dogs do get a chill, heat from a hot water bottle or a blanket should be used to raise the temperature to a normal level.
- If dogs are healthy, include daily exercise in their schedule.