

# What to know before getting a new pet



Humane Canada has partnered with Canada Moving to encourage adoption and responsible pet sourcing for those moving or considering bringing a new pet into their home.

If you are looking to add a pet to your family after your move, take the time to learn about your options and weigh the pros and cons. Read on for what you need to know before getting a pet.

## Adopting

Humane Canada encourages adoption from a local Humane Society, SPCA, or rescue. By adopting, you will give a second chance to lost, stray or surrendered animals awaiting their FURever home. Things to consider when adding a new pet to your family is living accommodations, cost of food & veterinary care, time commitment and the energy level of the animal. Your local shelter will work with you to find a pet that is compatible with your lifestyle. There are many dogs, cats, rabbits, and other small animals that need homes. Please see the attached document to find a Humane Canada member in your area, or check with your local municipal shelter or rescue.

## Puppies & Ethical Breeders

We know that adoption may not always be possible, but it is important to responsibly source a new pet. If you don't take the time to carefully choose where you get a puppy, you could end up with a dog that suffers from serious medical issues or behavioral problems, causing you a great deal of heartache, frustration and expense. Worse, you could end up unknowingly supporting the cruel puppy mill industry.

Internet classified sites can be a problematic place to look for a purebred dog. It is virtually impossible to tell the difference between a reputable breeder and a puppy mill unless you visit first. Puppy mills and backyard breeders are known to use internet classifieds to promote their business and find potential customers. In fact, the Better Business Bureau estimates that 80% of sponsored search links for pet sales may be fraudulent, advertising animals the supposed sellers don't own.

The only way you can know for sure that a breeder is responsible and humane is to visit (whether in person or via video call) and see first-hand the conditions their breeding dogs and puppies are kept in. You'll need to ask specific questions and ask to see certain paperwork to make sure they meet the standards of a good breeder. If the health or vaccine certificates that are provided to you seem dubious, please call the veterinary hospital listed on the record to ensure these aren't fraudulent. Be sure to follow this due diligence before handing over any money.

Adding a new pet to your family is an exciting and heartwarming time. Doing your homework, adopting when you can, and asking questions before getting an animal, to ensure it is responsibly sourced and the right fit for you, will make the process of bringing home a furry family member a happy one for both you and your pet.

Please consider supporting our work to improve animal welfare in Canada

<https://humanecanada.ca/how-to-help/donate/>

