

Adding a pet to your family

Choosing the species,
breed, age, etc that are
right for you



What is your dream pet?



TURN TO THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU AND DISCUSS WHAT TYPE OF PET YOU WOULD GET RIGHT NOW IF YOUR PARENTS LET YOU CHOOSE WHATEVER YOU WANTED

Back to Reality

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO OWN A PET?



Time

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Exercising
- Training
- Grooming
- Cleaning

How many hours are you gone for each day and where will you keep your pet?

What energy level are you looking for?
Couch potato or running partner?



Environment

GIVE THEM A COMFORTABLE HOME

Interacting with animals positively and respectfully reduces stress and anxiety, but everyone in the home needs to develop good animal manners to make that happen. You also need to make sure that you have enough mental and physical space to accommodate your new family member.

It is important to choose a pet that matches your lifestyle.

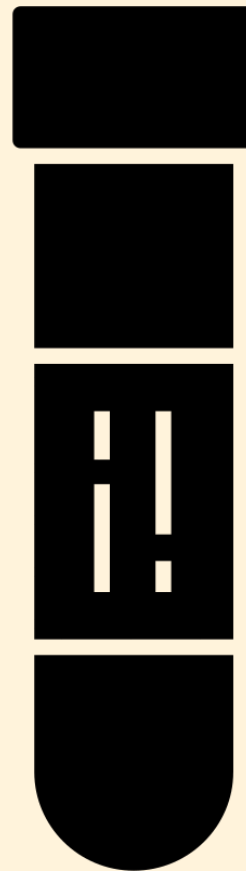
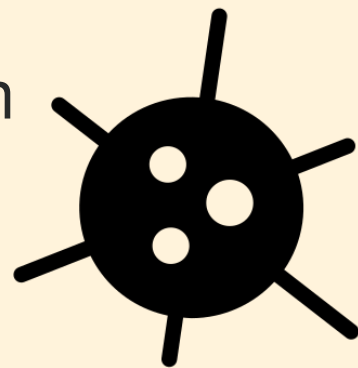


Environment cont...

PET-PROOFING YOUR HOUSE

HOUSEHOLD DANGERS THAT CAN AFFECT YOUR PEET:

- Exposed electrical cords
- Balconies/staircases
- Accessible toxins (cleaners, pesticides, fertilizers)
- Holes in fencing where animals can escape
- Poisonous plants



Common Houseplants that are **Safe** and **Unsafe** for Cats

Ever wondered if any of your houseplants are unsafe for your favorite felines? Thinking of shopping around for new plants to spice up your living space? Below are lists of a few common houseplants to be aware of that are safe and unsafe for cats!

SAFE = HARMLESS	UNSAFE = HARMFUL
<p><Calatheas / Prayer Plants> A tropical-looking, non-toxic and very easy plant to care for</p> 	<p><Lilies (Lilium, Hemerocallis spp.)> MOST dangerous plant! Causes rapid, life threatening kidney damage</p> 
<p><Spider Plants> A low maintenance and non-toxic alternative to snake plants!</p> 	<p>Philodendron> Causes severe irritation and inflammation of the mouth, throat, stomach, and even windpipe</p> 
<p>African Violets> A pretty flowering houseplant that is safe for cats</p> 	<p><Jade> Causes depression, weakness, vomiting, and incoordination</p> 
<p><Orchids (Orchidaceae family)> These are a beautiful and harmless alternative to lilies!</p> 	<p>Snake Plants> Causes nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and dehydration</p> 
<p>Sword fern / Boston fern> A large and fluffy houseplant that is safe if accidentally consumed by our feline friends!</p> 	<p><Rhododendron> Causes drooling, loss of appetite, stomach upset, weakness, incoordination, weak heart rate</p> 
<p><Rosemary, parsley, basil, dill> These cooking herbs are safe for cats should you wish to grow them in your garden or kitchen</p> 	<p>Lily of the Valley> Causes the heart to beat abnormally and possibly stop</p> 
<p>Oat, wheat, barley, alfalfa, and rye grass> These grasses are safe for cats to nibble on and are a common component of "cat grass"</p> 	<p><Aloe Vera> Causes vomiting, diarrhea, severe dehydration, lethargy, depression, loss of appetite, tremors, change in urine color</p> 

Remember: these lists are *not complete* and there are *many other* plants that are safe and unsafe for cats - if you are ever concerned that your cat has consumed a potentially toxic plant, contact your veterinarian or the pet poison helpline (855-764-7661) immediately! Pet poison helpline website: petpoisonhelpline.com

Money

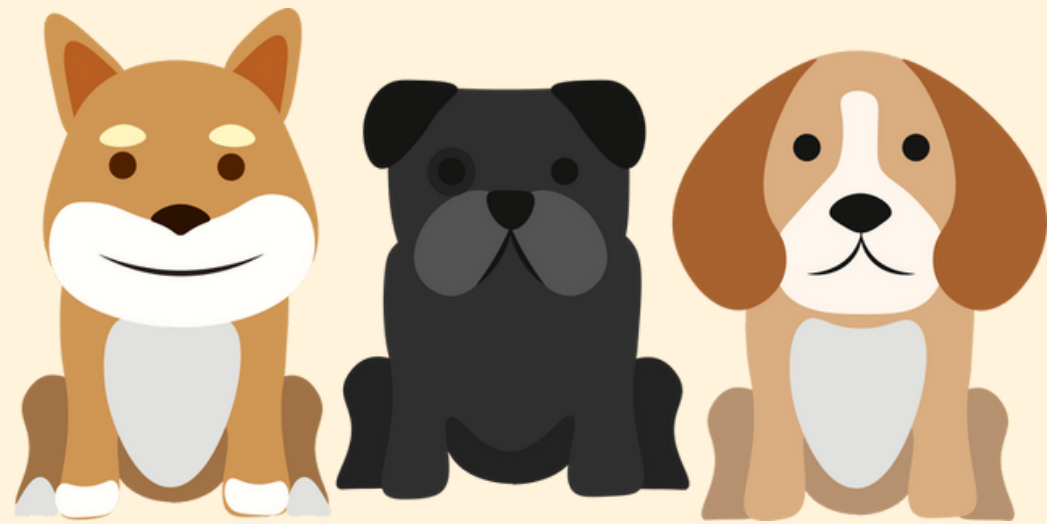
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NEED FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO COVER:

- Food (\$500-\$2500 per year)
- Training (\$50-\$200 per hour)
- Licensing (\$15-\$60 per year)
- Grooming (\$50-\$200 per year)
- Pet supplies (initial costs up to \$1000)
- Veterinary care (\$250-\$500 per year)

Where are you getting your pet from?



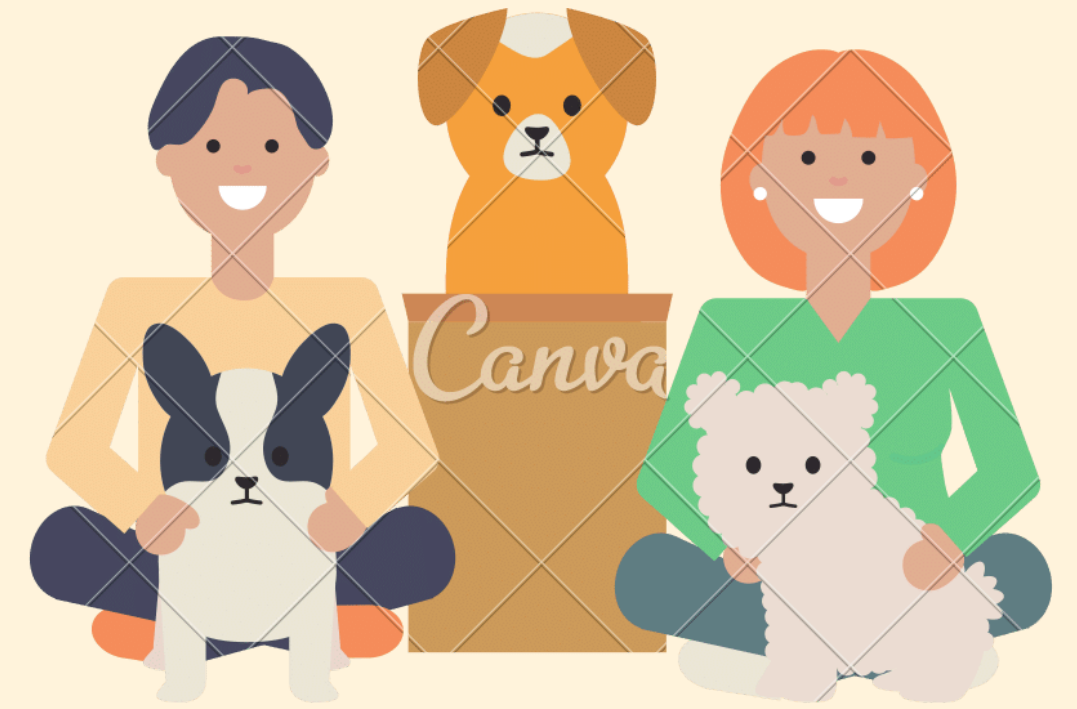
BREEDERS

- Expensive
- Can select specific breed/traits
- Known history and well socialized
- Make sure to find and ETHICAL breeder



SHELTERS

- Cheaper
- Spay/neuter already done
- Saving a life
- May be older and already have some training done
- May have a traumatic history and specific needs



REHOMING

- No up front cost but may have costs associated with incomplete vet care
- Known personality
- May be older and have some training already done
- May have traumatic history and specific needs



Cat or Dog?



- Require indoor play but not scheduled walks
- Cheaper food and veterinary costs
- Do not need as much space
- Can be left alone for longer period of time
- Start using the litterbox on their own at a few weeks old
- Harder to take on trips so more likely to need babysitting/boarding
- Less eager to please so harder to train



- Wide range of breeds and sizes
- Outdoorsy and athletic
- Cannot be left home alone for as long
- Can be taken along on trips more easily
- More difficult to potty train but easier to obedience train in general



Breeds

More of a dog thing than a cat thing



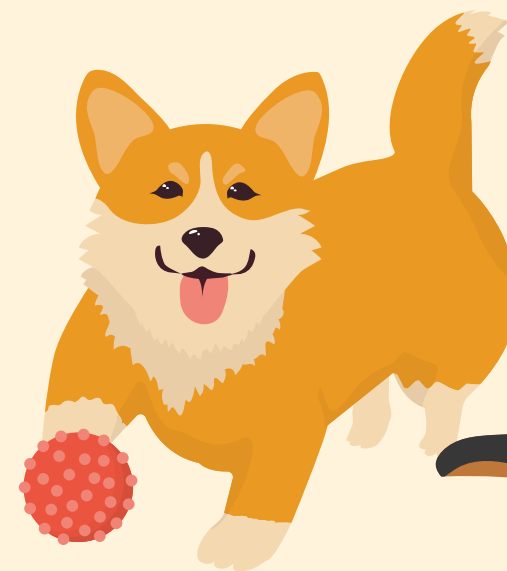
Playful
Devoted
Enthusiastic
Food motivated



Brave
Smart
Stubborn
Endearing



Intelligent
Hard-working
Gentle
Confident



Alert
Lively
Outgoing
Friendly



Loyal
Intelligent
Obedient
Strong bonds



Attentive
Good-natured
Fearless
Adaptable

Click here to read about more breeds: <https://www.royalcanin.com/ca/dogs/breeds/>

Age

PUPPY/KITTEN

- Time and energy for training
- Okay with more cleaning
- You are home often
- You don't mind things getting chewed on
- You want to watch them grow and develop into their personality



ADULT

- You want a mostly trained animal
- You work longer hours
- You want a quieter household
- You want to skip the fees associated with spay/neuter and vaccines
- You want an animal with a known personality

Assignment

WITH ALL OF THIS INFORMATION, RETHINK ABOUT WHICH TYPE OF PET YOU WOULD CHOOSE TO BUY/ADOPT AND WHY. CONSIDER ALL OF THE FACTORS DISCUSSED TODAY. REFLECT ON YOUR INITIAL CHOICE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE LECTURE AND DISCUSS IF/WHY YOUR SELECTION MAY HAVE CHANGED. FILL OUT THIS DOCUMENT AND SUBMIT IT BEFORE THE END OF CLASS.

YOUR NAME :

DATE :

MY PET

Name: _____

Species: _____

Breed: _____

Age: _____

Name 3 personality traits you would look for in your pet.

How would you prepare your home environment for your pet?

What daily tasks would you need to complete for your pet and how long would that take per day?

References:

<https://vcacanada.com/know-your-pet/factors-to-consider-in-pet-selection-dogs#:~:text=Before%20choosing%20a%20pet%2C%20consider,right%20dog%20for%20your%20family!>

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