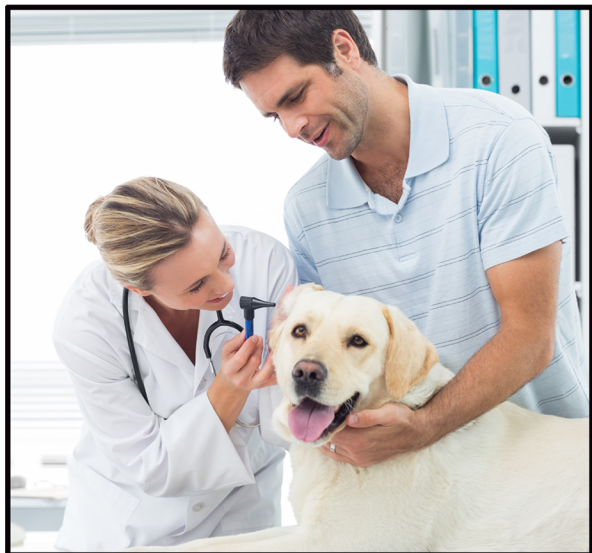


Are You Ready to Bring Home Your Pet?



BEFORE YOU BRING HOME YOUR NEW PET:

1. Choose a veterinarian and make an appointment for your pet within the first few weeks

2. Purchase:

Food and treats (including dental treats)

Food and water bowls

Bed and toys

Litter box and litter (for cats)

Potty training pads (if needed)

Collar or harness and leash

Crate and/or carrier

Grooming brush

Nail clippers

Scratching post (for cats)

Appropriate shelter (if your pet will be spending a significant amount of time outdoors)

3. Safety proof your home

For helpful tips, go to the American Humane Association's website: <http://www.americanhumane.org/animals/adoption-pet-care/safety/pet-proofing-your-home.html>



Help control the pet population ... have your pet spayed or neutered



TEN TIPS FOR RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERS

1. Commit to a lifelong relationship with your pet
2. Make sure your pet is properly identified (tags, collar, microchip) and your contact information is up to date
3. Keep your pet healthy by providing fresh water and good quality food daily
4. Spay/Neuter your pet
5. Keep your pet's vaccines current
6. Treat your pet monthly with preventatives against parasites, worms, fleas, and ticks
7. Take your pet regularly to a veterinarian to maintain your pet's good health
8. Exercise and play with your pet daily
9. Clean up after your pet
10. Include your pet in your emergency/disaster plan

RESOURCE GUIDE

Go to <http://www.aacounty.org/AWC/> Click on: Resource Guide for Animal Related Questions in Anne Arundel County, Maryland

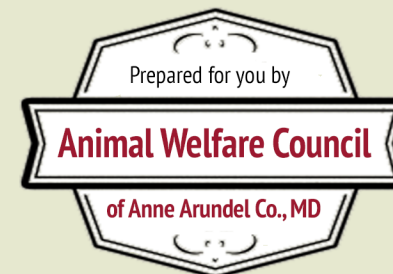
If you see an animal that is being neglected or abused, report it immediately to the local authorities.

Animal Welfare Council
<http://www.aacounty.org/AWC>

PURPOSE: The Animal Welfare Council, created by Executive Order Number 35, is committed to the goal of promoting the sensitive and humane treatment of domestic animals and wildlife in Anne Arundel County.

This brochure is not meant to be a definitive guide to adopting or purchasing a pet but simply provides some general guidelines to assist you in your decision-making process.

The Joy of Being a Pet Parent



<http://www.aacounty.org/AWC>



Are You a Cat Person or a Dog Person ... or Both?

A CAT PERSON ...

- Cares for their cat for an average of 15+ years
- Looks forward to kitty purrs
- Doesn't mind cleaning up after their cat
- Loves outrageous and silly behavior
- Loves having a cat in their lap
- Can financially afford to care for a cat
- Grooms their cat as needed
- Wants unconditional love
- Keeps their cat healthy and safe
- Can't imagine life without their cat

A DOG PERSON

- Cares for their dog for an average of 12+ years
- Looks forward to wet kisses
- Loves interaction and activity
- Enjoys daily walks
- Grooms their dog as needed
- Can financially afford to care for a dog
- Enjoys unconditional love
- Loves having a constant companion
- Keeps their dog healthy and safe
- Can't imagine life without their dog



Adopting a Pet

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- You'll be saving the life of an animal in need.
- If you decide to adopt a cat or dog from a shelter or rescue, make sure to find a reputable organization. Ask friends, relatives, groomers, or veterinarians to recommend one near you.
- Rescued pets are a true bargain. They are up-to-date on vaccinations, tested, micro-chipped and, in most cases, already spayed or neutered.
- Rescued pets usually receive behavioral evaluations.
- Shelters and rescues often have purebred animals and young animals.
- Your new pet will provide you with unwavering devotion and love, which can help get you through some of life's toughest challenges.
- All animals have different personalities and breed traits. Shelter staff can help you make the right choice based on your preferences.
- You will never know loneliness when you have a pet.
- Pet adoption is a win-win situation.
- Reputable shelters/rescues will take the pet back if there is a problem you can't resolve.

Buying a Pet

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Looking for a specific breed? There are breed specific rescues that offer purebred animals for adoption.
- Looking for a kitten or puppy? Shelters and rescues often have kittens and puppies for adoption.
- If you can't find the animal you are looking for at a shelter or rescue, other options include reputable breeders, Craigslist, or pet stores. If you decide to purchase a pet through one of these sellers, please consider the following advice:
 - Make sure to find a reputable breeder (https://www.apps.akc.org/apps/classified/search/landing_breed.cfm) Visit the breeder and ask questions.
 - Ask to see the parents of the pet you are considering
 - Make certain the seller is highly knowledgeable about the breed and ask for references.
 - Make sure the animals live in an environment that is clean and healthy.
 - The seller should want to know about you and your lifestyle.
 - Will the seller take the pet back if there's a problem you can't resolve?
- Buying a pet can cost \$500 to \$2,000, depending on the breed.
- Initial veterinary care of your pet can cost you \$500 or more.
- Many breeds have breed-specific health problems.

