

THINKING ABOUT GETTING A PET?



Bringing a pet into your home can be a wonderful and rewarding experience — but it's also a big responsibility.

Before adopting or purchasing an animal, take some time to make sure you're fully prepared for the commitment.

Consider what your life might look like over that time — will you move house, start a family, or change jobs?

Pets rely on you for their entire lives, so adopting one should be a long-term commitment.

If you adopt a cat or dog without being properly prepared for the responsibility, several serious problems can occur — both for you and for the animal.

Here are some possible outcomes:

For You

- **Stress and Expense:** Caring for a pet takes time, energy, and money for food, vet bills, and supplies.
- **Lifestyle Issues:** Pets need daily care and routine; if you're too busy, they may be neglected.
- **Frustration or Regret:** Untrained pets can cause damage or stress, leading to guilt or giving them up.

For the Pet

- **Neglect and Poor Health:** Lack of care or vet visits can cause illness or loneliness.
- **Behavior Problems:** Without attention or training, pets can become anxious or destructive.
- **Abandonment:** Many unprepared owners return pets to shelters, which is stressful for the animal.

CHECKLIST BEFORE BUYING OR ADOPTING A PET

LIFESTYLE & SPACE

	✓	✗
Do you have enough time, energy, and space for a pet?		
Do you have the right space in your home for a pet? <i>A large, active dog will need plenty of exercise and space, while some smaller pets are suited to apartments.</i>		
Do you have other pets that you need to consider?		
Does your routine accommodate a pet's needs now and in the future?		

COSTS & ONGOING EXPENSES

	✓	✗
Are you prepared to pay for ongoing costs such as food, regular veterinary care, vaccinations, registration, grooming, and bedding or toys?		
Do you have the financial capacity to pay for unexpected vet bills ie an emergency?		
Are you prepared to pay annual pet registration fee with Council (April each year in Ararat Rural City) and can follow Council's rules to keep pets safely contained?		



TIME COMMITMENT

	✓	✗
Can you give a pet daily care, companionship, and attention?		
Are you prepared to train and socialise your pet so it behaves safely around people and other animals?		
Can you play/exercise your pet?		
Do you have any travel plans, or other commitments coming up that might impact on your pet care?		
Have you planned who will care for your pet if you're unwell or away from home?		



TIP: TAKE CARE WHEN CHOOSING A PUPPY BREEDER

If buying a dog or cat, please research ethical breeders who meet animal welfare standards. Council's Community Safety team is more than happy to discuss any pet breed or animal breeder questions or concerns that you may have.

Further information

- More things to think about before adopting a pet - www.rspca.org.au
- Questions about registration and microchipping in Ararat Rural City - (03) 5355 0200



Ararat Rural City