

“Bailey is SUCH a great dog!!”

...his proud new owners gush. They go on to describe how beautifully their new 4-legged family member has settled in at their home, becoming best buddies with their Labrador, playing SO gently with their children...Bailey is finally home.



(Pictured here while still a pup) Bailey's first year of life was a virtual rollercoaster. He was shuffled into 3 different homes, through no fault of his own. Each owner's sole reason for taking Bailey in was that he was a cute, purebred puppy. None of them had experience with puppies, or Bailey's breed. None took the time to become familiar with either subject. All of them gave up on Bailey, because he was simply being the cute, purebred puppy they originally fell in love with. Bailey's story is true and it is, unfortunately, very common. Beautiful, loving, healthy animals, who just want to be someone's best friend, are destroyed every day in city shelters. People adopt animals that they aren't prepared to care for, then give up in frustration a short time later. Other animals that aren't given up at shelters are often banished from family interaction. They suffer a different type of death: one of silent desperation, longing for love and human companionship.

A Little Preparation = A Happier Pet & Owner!



Doing a little research before adopting a pet will help you be better prepared and feel more confident about taking on this big responsibility. Every species, breed and animal is unique and special in their own way. Making broad assumptions about what your new pet will be like, or adopting an animal simply because he is cute is a fast track to a disastrous situation.

Questions To Consider Before Adopting A Pet:

1. What is your activity level and is it a good match for the animal you're considering?

Whether you are looking for a sedentary lap dog, an energetic jogging buddy or something in between, make sure the animal you choose is one whose energy level matches your own. Dogs with higher energy requirements can become destructive if not provided with a healthy outlet for that energy.



2. What instinctual behaviors might the breed you're interested in have?

Different types of dogs have been bred for different things, which is important to factor into your decision. Some dogs have the natural instinct to herd (and will herd people when given the opportunity). Some breeds have strong prey drives and may not be a good match for certain pets. These behaviors are an inherent part of each animal's "wiring" and are something every responsible pet owner needs to understand (and welcome).

3. (For Renters) What is your property manager's pet weight limit?

Many tiny adopted puppies find themselves homeless by their first birthdays, because they outgrew their homes. Remember that large breed dogs grow exponentially during their first 12 months. Your 6 week old Mastiff puppy will most likely outweigh you after a year (and wear out his welcome with your landlord).



4. What are the animal's grooming needs?

Some dogs (and cats) have fur that requires a periodic, professional groom to keep their coats healthy and in good shape. Is this something you are willing to do and can afford? If not, be sure to choose a pet with easier care requirements.

5. Have you thought about obedience training?

Every dog deserves the opportunity to be taught the rules of his new home. Dogs have many instinctual behaviors that are perfectly normal to them, but may not be well-received by their human family. Just as children must be taught things, animals must also be taught. Even more importantly, owners must be taught how to effectively communicate their wishes to their pet.



We're Here To Help!

The groups listed below are committed to placing rescued animals into loving, permanent homes that are well-suited for each animal's needs. Their websites are a great place to learn all about specific breeds. A wealth of knowledge can also be found by talking with a veterinarian, obedience trainer, groomer, as well as reading books about different species of animals and different breeds. Equip yourself with the facts and make an informed decision. Remember, when you adopt an animal, you take responsibility for an innocent life.

American Boston Terrier Rescue
972.407.4440; www.bostonterrierrescue.net

Animal Rescue Klub (ARK)
www.animalrescueklub.org; 972.562.HELP

Animal Rescue of Texas
www.animalrescueoftexas.org; 214.276.7802

Camp Wolfgang (German Shepherd Dog Rescue)
214.520.7000; www.campwolfgang.petfinder.com

Chihuahua Rescue and Transport, Inc.
www.chihuahua-rescue.org

City Pet Rescue (CPR)
www.citypetrescue.com

Coppell Humane Society
www.coppellhumanesociety.com; 972.462.1121

Dachshund Lovers of Texas
www.dachshundloversoftexas.org; 214.577.7536

DFW Cocker Spaniel Rescue
www.dfwcockerrescue.8m.com; 972.994.1133

DFW Labrador Retriever Rescue Club
972.881.5544; www.dfwlabrescue.org

East Lake Pet Orphanage
214.349.ELPO (3576); www.elpo.org

Flower Mound Humane Society
www.fmhs.org; 972.691.7387

Frisco Humane Society
www.friscohumanesociety.com; 972.498.8980

Great Dane Angel Network Rescue
817.361.9855; www.daneangelnetwork.org

Humane Animal Rescue Team (HART)
www.hartoftexas.org; 214.332.9535

Labrador Retriever Rescue of North Texas
www.labrescueofnorthtexas.org; 972.480.LABS (5227)

North Texas Samoyed Rescue, Inc.
www.nortextsamrescue.org; 214.350.1953

SADIE Foundation
www.sadie.petfinder.com; k9kids1@verizon.net

Save The Animals Rescue Society (STARS)
www.starspets.com; 972.459.9181

Saving Pyrs In Need (SPIN)
www.SPINrescue.org; 972.681.8585

Scottie Kingdom Rescue, Inc.
www.scottiekingdom.com

Straydog, Inc.
www.straydog.org; 903.479.3497

Tassie's Hope Animal Rescue
www.tassieshope.org; 214.550.2648

Texas Animal Shelter Coalition
817.392.3737; www.sheltercoalition.com

Texas Friends of Shelter Animals
TxFosa@verizon.net; www.friendsofshelteranimals.org

Westie Rescue of North Texas
214.432.7541; www.wrnt.org