



## Thinking of adding a pet to your family?

Some families think about expanding their households with a new pet during the holidays. It's fun to think about having bringing a new pet home, but there are many things to consider when preparing for a new pet in the house.

Here are a few tips to help you get ready:

Make sure to put anything chewable above their height

Purchase toys to distract them and keep them occupied

Consider buying the pet food in a smaller container until you know that the food agrees with your pet

Choose suitable water containers

Stock up on a leash and poop & scoop bags, kitty litters & containers

Brush, comb, shampoo, nail clippers, dental products, stain/odor remover

ID tags, beds & carrier, crate or dog house, puppy pads, gates and pet doors

*Veterinarians will add a few more items to this list:*

Puppies first aid kit, flea and tick products

Get the house ready by removing harmful chemicals and putting them out of reach

Make sure you have a conversation with your family about the house rules related to your new family member. Who is responsible for walking and picking up the poop? Make sure that everyone is on board and be consistent.

Make sure to consider obedience or socialization classes, a well-behaved pet doesn't magically occur, you've got to put time into training your new companion.

Research different names and decide how the will name be chosen

If this is going to be a gift for your children, really think about this purchase. This will affect your life for many years to come and it comes with a lot of responsibility. Make sure you are ready for the responsibility of a new dog or cat.

Get the animal on your schedule. You don't want to feed the cat or dog at 3am.

Good luck with your new pet!

Any speaking events?  
Any tips to pass along?

Your local professional organizer,

Betty Huotari

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**810.348.1772**

[betty@logicalplacement.com](mailto:betty@logicalplacement.com) • [www.LogicalPlacement.com](http://www.LogicalPlacement.com)

