

# Timing is everything!

## Is your whānau ready to adopt?

### Things to consider before bringing a new companion animal home:



#### Joy, love and fun:

- Animals can bring a whānau so much happiness, unconditional love and fun.

#### Educational:

- Animals help to teach children responsibility, empathy and understanding.
- Children can learn about the value of money and the cost of keeping an animal, biology, health and wellbeing.



#### Allergies:

- People can be allergic to animal fur, saliva and skin cells.
- Ensure no one in your whānau are allergic - spend time around the type of animal you are considering before welcoming them into your home.

*Tip: For those with allergies, consider a lower allergen companion such as fish, reptiles or specific breeds of cats and dogs.*

#### Time:

- Most animals require a lot of time and attention. Do you have time to meet the needs of an animal?
- The daily care and time commitment required will depend on the type and individual needs of an animal.
- Consider the time it will take to feed, clean, train, exercise, play with and groom different animals.



#### Commitment:

- Animals are a long term commitment. Cats and dogs live on average 10-15 years, horses can live well into their 30's and goldfish can live over 40 years.
- As animals age their care requirements change, it's important to consider your future lifestyle and ability to care for an animal for its whole life.

*Tip: Consider adopting an adult animal, they too need care and love.*



#### Cost:

- There are many ongoing expenses associated with caring for an animal, including food, vet care, grooming and toys.
- Are you financially able to care for an animal?

*Tip: Consider pet insurance - it can help you cover unexpected vet bills.*



#### Lifestyle:

- Will an animal fit into your current and future lifestyle?
- Do you have time to take a dog on daily walks, give your cat enough attention so they don't get lonely, or are you away on holiday or business a lot?
- Consider your lifestyle and the needs of different types of animals.

*Tip: Other people can help you care for your animal. Options include family, neighbours, doggy daycares, pet sitters, boarding kennels and dog walkers.*



#### Environment:

- Consider where you live and what type of animal the environment is suitable for.
- For example; large high energy dogs need space and are not typically suited to apartment living, rabbits are best kept in desexed pairs and require lots of enrichment and space to run, hop and jump.

*Tip: Ensure you are legally allowed to have animals. Check with landlords, body corporates and the council by-laws.*



#### Type and personality:

- If your whānau have decided it is the right time to adopt an animal, congratulations!
- Now it's time to consider the type of companion and the personality that will be the best fit for your home and whānau.



#### We are all individuals:

- Animals are all individuals with their own personalities, needs, likes and dislikes.
- Work closely with the shelter you are adopting through to ensure they find the right match for your whānau and the animal.



For more information about animal care and adoptions check out [www.sPCA.nz](http://www.sPCA.nz)

