



WWW.BooneCountyHumane.org

HSforbc@gmail.com

(877-HSforBC)

1-877-473-6722

Mailing address: PO Box 708 Lebanon, In 46052

For the love of animals



THINKING ABOUT ADOPTING? SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT....

1. Do you have any other dogs and how will they react to a new pet?
2. Is your current residence suited to the dog you're considering?
3. How will your social life or work obligations affect your ability to care for a dog?
4. Do you have a plan for your new dog during vacations and/or work travel?
5. How do the people you live with feel about having a dog in the house?
6. Are you (or your spouse, partner or roommate) intolerant of hair, dirt and other realities of sharing your home with a dog, such as allergies?
7. Do you or any of your household/family members have health issues that may be affected by a dog?
8. What breed of dog is the best fit with your current lifestyle? (You can find information on specific breeds in our [dog breed directory](#).)
9. Is there tension in the home? Dogs quickly pick up on stress in the home, and it can exacerbate their health and behavior problems.
10. Is there an adult in the family who has agreed to be ultimately responsible for the dog's care?

Other Considerations:

1. If you are thinking of adopting a young dog, do you have the time and patience to work with the dog through its adolescence, taking house-breaking, chewing and energy-level into account? (Find more information on raising young dogs in our [Puppy Guide](#).)
2. Have you considered your lifestyle carefully and determined whether a younger or older dog would be a better match for you?



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3. Can you train and handle a dog with behavior issues or are you looking for an easy-going friend?
4. Do you need a dog who will be reliable with children or one you can take with you when you travel?
5. Do you want a dog who follows you all around the house or would you prefer a less clingy, more independent character?

Size Considerations:

1. What size dog can your home accommodate?
2. Will you have enough room if your dog grows to be bigger than expected?
3. What size dog would suit the other people who live in or visit your home regularly?
4. Do you have another dog to consider when choosing the size of your next dog?
5. How big of a dog can you travel comfortably with?

Dog Costs:

1. More likely than not, the adopting agency will charge a fee to help defray the cost of taking in homeless or lost animals. The adoption fee you pay will be a tiny fraction of the money you will spend over the life of your dog.
2. You may need to pay for your adopted dog to be spayed or neutered before bringing him or her home.
3. Some expenses are mandatory for all dogs, including: Food, vet care, licenses, training classes etc
4. Unexpected costs: Accidents and illness can result in costly emergency veterinary care. Recovery tools for finding a missing dog can include posters and rewards
5. A dog with special physical or behavioral challenges may require specialized professional support to overcome any obstacles these issues present.
6. For more on typical dog care costs visit [Annual Dog Care Costs](#).



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Time Considerations:

1. **Dogs** need to be fed two to three times a day, more often in the case of puppies, and need a constant supply of fresh water.
2. **A** responsible dog parent should spend at least one hour per day giving direct attention to his or her dog. This may include training, exercising, grooming, and playing or, with cats, it may just be lap
3. **Time on the couch.** Dogs will need to be taken out to potty several times a day.
4. **A** dog with an abundance of energy needs more time to exercise and interactive toys to keep them entertained.
5. **Dogs** with long coats may need 20 minutes a day of grooming to prevent matting.
6. **Dogs** with certain medical conditions may need additional attention, including specifically timed injections in the case of diabetic animals.
7. **Remember that adopted dogs may need additional bonding and reassurance time in the early weeks.**



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Can foster parents adopt their foster pets?

Yes! As long as foster parents meet the shelter requirements that are necessary for adopting, foster parents have the first choice to adopt their foster pets, unless otherwise specified.



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Are foster animals contagious? Will my pets or my health be jeopardized?

It is always a health risk to expose your animal to other animals, whether at the off-leash areas, the vet waiting room or other common animal areas. If your pets are current on their vaccinations, maintain healthy diets and lifestyles, and are not immune compromised, then the health risk should be minimal.

If someone in your household is immune compromised, consult the doctor before fostering. If you are pregnant (or someone in your house is) or plan to become pregnant, talk to your doctor before fostering cats. You may need to take some special precautions during your pregnancy.



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Are purchases made for foster care tax-deductible?

Purchases made for foster care may be considered donations to the shelter and would be tax-deductible. Please check with your shelter or rescue group regarding their tax-deductible status. If the organization is a non-profit, keep your receipts.

What do I do if my foster animal needs veterinary care?

It's always best to speak with the specific shelter or rescue about how to handle medical emergencies, as each group may have a preferred way of managing crisis, require notification prior to treatment or have a preferred veterinarian. We've included some rough guidelines below, but it's always best to sketch out a plan ahead of time with your foster contact.

If you have an emergency during business hours, please call the shelter or rescue directly. If something happens after hours:

1. Restrain the animal to prevent it from hurting itself or anyone in the area.
2. Evaluate the situation and need for assistance.
 - Is the shelter or rescue's veterinary office open for business with vet staff available?
 - Call the shelter.
 - Get the animal in to see the vet immediately.
 - Is the animal's life in imminent danger? Is the animal's airway obstructed or is the animal having trouble breathing? Does the animal have any broken bones or open wounds?
 - Call for emergency clearance.
 - Get the animal in to see the vet immediately.
 - Is the animal running a fever of 104°F. or greater?
 - Call for emergency clearance.
 - Get the animal in to see the vet immediately.
 - Look at the animal's gums. Are they white or healthy pink? Is the animal eating or drinking?



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- Is the animal able to urinate and defecate? Look at the animal's stool. Is there blood in the feces or urine? Are there obvious parasites present?
3. If the situation is not an emergency, call the shelter vet staff first thing on the next business day.
 4. If emergency medical attention is needed, or if you are uncertain, call for emergency clearance. Have the animal's name, impound number and any information about the situation available so the staff can advise you of the appropriate steps.
 5. Once you are cleared to go to the emergency veterinary clinic, a shelter representative will contact office and let them know that you are coming. In many cases, the medical treatment of the animal will be billed to the shelter. However, some rescue groups do ask you to pay and be reimbursed.

ALWAYS check with the shelter staff before making an appointment with a veterinary clinic. Without proper clearance, the shelter cannot reimburse you for any medical costs.

Can I name my foster pet?

Through the holiday foster program, your foster pet may already have a name given by the shelter or his or her previous owners. Please keep the same name! The pet may already know his or her name, all the shelter paperwork will be completed under that name and the animal will be listed on our Web site with that name. We want to avoid any confusion among shelter team members, foster families, potential adopters and the animal. If you choose to adopt your foster pet, you are free to change the name at that point in time.