

WHICH PET IS BEST?

Decide on the type of animal, and then think about who will be caring for the pet, and what would work best with your lifestyle and household in terms of the pet's energy level, exercise requirements, social behavior and general care.

Here's a list to help your family figure out which type of animal is best for the family's lifestyle.

DOGS	CATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some dogs may require a lot of exercise while others may be "couch potatoes". Adopt a dog from a shelter where the staff can tell you about each dog's unique personality.• Puppies and high-energy dogs will be best in houses with yards or in apartments close to a beach, greenbelt, or dog park.• Puppies and any dogs with aggression issues, are not good around small children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some cats are independent while others are very social; they can be playful and high-energy or lap-cats. Cats show a wide range of personality style, so make sure to choose one who matches your expectations. The best way to do this is to start with an adult cat. That way you know what type of pet you're getting, rather than waiting to see how a kitten will "turn out." Cats require less overall care and time than dogs. Some enjoy alone time.• Great for apartments and houses, and can be a good first pet for a kid.
BIRDS	FISH
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Devoted, sometimes messy and loud, and some love attention.• Great in both apartments and houses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most of them are easy to care for; most don't require a lot of space; beautiful to watch.• No petting or playing involved, and you'll have to learn the science of keeping it alive!• Small tanks are great for apartments, and a single fish can make a great first pet!
GUINEA PIGS & HAMPSTERS	RABBITS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Super cuddly, full of energy, but can be loud and messy!• These guys require lots of love and attention! A great first animal for a kid to help take care of.• Great for people living in apartments, but do your research, because some kinds of guinea pigs and hamsters have special needs in terms of diet and privacy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will be sweet and sometimes sassy, cannot live outside, but can sometimes be trained to use a litter box!• Bunnies are fragile creatures who might be better suited to an older child.• Good for houses and condos, though bunnies can be trouble for renters because they sometimes eat flooring and furniture!