



INHERITED A PET

Many people inherit pets from family members. Inheriting pets often means welcoming a pet into the family suddenly, unexpectedly, and at an inconvenient time. It could be due to a death in the family, a family member moving to a place that doesn't accept pets, a college student moving to a new place, or any other myriad of possible situations.

SO YOU'VE INHERITED A PET... NOW WHAT?

You may be thinking about how you didn't plan to have a (or another) pet and that what makes things even more difficult is that you have little knowledge and opportunity to provide the proper home for a new companion.

Living in locations such as an apartment can definitely raise a lot of questions. You may have to suddenly arrange to pay a pet deposit or you may not even be able to have a pet in your apartment. These types of situations can really turn what was likely the best of intentions into a big problem.



THE CHALLENGES

Aside from being able to provide a home in general, there is also the concern about the quality of your home and the changes that will likely take place now that you have a new companion in your life.

The first task is finding room for them or at least making room for them. Keep in mind that your new friend was likely already trained and has developed a unique pattern of habits they are accustomed to. Not every pet will behave identically or rely on the same schedule. If you are unfamiliar with how the pet acted in their previous home, you'll want to limit their wandering territory and space until you get a feel for how they are going to act in the new environment.

If you are new to being a pet owner, you'll need to understand the importance of feeding them and keeping up with similar health responsibilities such as who their vet is and medical information. It often helps to have a discussion with the animal's existing vet as to the health and characteristics of the pet, especially if it's likely that they know more about them than you.

Another topic covers the importance of understanding the costs of a pet. Food, medical bills, and the time needed to care for your pet will all change your life economically. You may have to compensate financially or rearrange your schedule to adjust to your new companion's needs and demands for attention. Many non-expectant pet owners will likely have work related contradictions that make certain tasks such as feeding and letting them out to potty a difficult thing to manage. There are plenty of companies that appeal to the time-budgeted owner, some of which design self-replenishing pet food dispensers and others that dispense fresh water. There is also the concept of grass litter boxes which are inexpensive and easy to maintain. This type of solution is ideal for a new dog owner that is still adjusting to their new way of life.



Keeping up with your pet supplies can be just another thing you don't want to have to remember. After a long day at work and going to the store, the last thing you want to do is have to go 'to the store' again. Consider home delivery of your pet supplies!



ADDITIONAL HELP

For many potential concerns you may have, you can find resources throughout our Animal Resource Center on lots of different topics. Please read through them, and contact us if you need additional assistance or guidance.

If you cannot keep the pet under any circumstances, you'll want to be sure they are safely re-homed. Please see our section on "Finding a New Home" for helpful tips and information on finding a new home for an animal.

First and foremost, we recommend that all pet owners consult with their veterinarian. The information contained herein is meant to be a resource. It is not exhaustive, nor does it indicate an endorsement or recommendation from Charleston Animal Society. Please use your own due diligence in researching these sources and making the best choice for your pet(s).

We'd like to give thanks and credit to the following organizations, whose published resources were utilized in addition to staff research for this compilation:

ASPCA aspca.org
Blog.porchpotty.com

If you still need assistance after reviewing the information on our website, please either email or call our Animal Resource Center at help@charlestonanimalsociety.org or (843) 329-1554.

**Animal Resource Center
www.charlestonanimalsociety.org/GetPetHelp**