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NEIGHBORHOOD EXTRA

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Thinking of adopting? Ask yourself these questions

by Wilda Lyons / Coalition for Pet Protection Jun 26, 2017

A recent case sent a reminder that pet ownership is a huge commitment, and that having a furry family member is not a right, but a *privilege*, one that needs to be taken seriously.

The companionship of an animal is a wonderful experience. I can't imagine life without one. With this experience comes the commitment of time and money.

When thinking of adopting an animal, ask yourself some hard questions. Be honest, and ask yourself:

Can I afford this pet?

Will I be able to physically take care of it?

Am I willing to sacrifice my needs for theirs?

Adopting an animal is a huge commitment, one not to be taken lightly. Yes, that sweet kitten, or the cute puppy with those puppy dog eyes pull on the heartstrings, but remember, they can also pull on the purse strings.

According to an August 2016 article from "Money Under 30," just the one-time expenses such as fixing, supplies, initial shots and exams can run around \$565 for a dog, and \$365 for a cat. Annual pet expenses can run around \$700 each for dogs and cats.

This can vary to locale, and type of dog, and is for basic care. This does not include for such things as emergency medical care, and boarding. Having a pet can cost close to \$1,000 the first year and close to \$500 each subsequent year. Again, this is for basic care.

To cover any emergencies some pet owners opt for pet insurance, while others save money in an emergency fund. Either way, it is a very good idea to have finances in place for medical emergencies. There are organizations such as CPP, Cause for Paws, and Sadie's Dog Fund that serve as safety nets for these emergencies. Help is available through these programs.

However the bulk of the financial commitment still needs to be the pet owner's responsibility.

The Coalition for Pet Protection was founded in 1992. It is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible and used locally. Our focus is on providing assistance for emergency feline care, and an emergency animal food pantry. Check out our FaceBook page or www.petcoalition.org, or call 402-434-7922. We are celebrating our 25th year of serving Lincoln.