HOME

Decide with the household

Match care to real life.

NEW PET PREPARATION PACK

DISCUSS THE COMMITMENT

Before bringing a pet home, talk honestly about time, housing rules, care duties, travel, allergies, and who can make decisions. Confirm landlord or building requirements before adding an animal.

- ☐ Daily care owner and backup: ____
- ☐ Housing rule or approval to confirm: ____
- ☐ Quiet place for the pet: ____

EXAMPLE

Two roommates agree that one handles morning walks, the other evening feeding, and both must approve a pet-sitting plan before travel.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Who is responsible when routines change?

What housing question needs written confirmation?

This guide is general household information, not veterinary, medical, legal, financial, or behavioral advice. Follow local animal rules and product instructions. For urgent animal concerns contact a veterinarian or local emergency animal service; seek qualified guidance for behavior or care questions.

HOME

Prepare a safe space

Start small and calm.

NEW PET PREPARATION PACK

SET UP ONE BASE AREA

Create a quiet, supervised area with appropriate water, food, bedding, and species-appropriate supplies. Remove accessible hazards and give the animal time to explore at its own pace.

- [ ] Secure cords, chemicals, medication, and small swallowable objects
- [ ] Check windows, balconies, doors, and gates
- [ ] Keep a familiar resting spot away from heavy traffic

EXAMPLE

A new cat begins in one bedroom with a litter area separate from food and water, then receives more access gradually as it settles.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

What can this pet chew, swallow, or knock over?

Where can it rest without being disturbed?

HOME

Buy essentials thoughtfully

Function before extras.

NEW PET PREPARATION PACK

USE A FIRST-WEEK LIST

Choose supplies suitable for the animal's size, age, and needs. Read labels and avoid assuming a product is appropriate because it is popular or marketed broadly.

- [ ] Food and water setup
- [ ] Safe transport and identification plan
- [ ] Cleaning supplies and waste routine

EXAMPLE

Instead of buying many toys at once, Rosa starts with a few appropriate items and observes which are used safely under supervision.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

What item supports daily care on day one?

What purchase can wait until I know this pet better?

HOME

Plan food and routine

Consistency makes observation easier.

NEW PET PREPARATION PACK

WRITE A SIMPLE SCHEDULE

Follow the feeding and care information provided by the shelter, breeder, or veterinarian, and make changes cautiously with professional guidance when needed. Record normal routines so changes are easier to notice.

- ☐ Meal times and amounts as directed: ____
- ☐ Walk, play, litter, or enclosure checks: ____
- ☐ Who completes each task: ____

EXAMPLE

The household posts a chart: breakfast at 7, water check at lunch, evening walk at 6, and a note for any unusual behavior to share with the caregiver.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

What routine can we maintain every day?

What observation should be recorded rather than guessed about?

HOME

Arrange care contacts

Know whom to call.

NEW PET PREPARATION PACK

BUILD A CARE FILE

Choose a veterinarian and learn how to reach urgent local animal care before a problem occurs. Keep adoption records, identification details, insurance information if applicable, and emergency contacts secure.

- [ ] Primary veterinary contact and hours
- [ ] After-hours animal emergency option
- [ ] Microchip or identification details, if applicable

EXAMPLE

The care card lists the clinic address, after-hours number, transport carrier location, and the name of a trusted neighbor who can help if needed.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Where is the nearest appropriate urgent-care option?

Who can access the care file if I am away?

HOME

Introduce home and people

Go slowly and observe.

NEW PET PREPARATION PACK

USE GRADUAL INTRODUCTIONS

Let the pet acclimate at a pace appropriate for its species and temperament. Supervise introductions with children, visitors, and other animals; avoid forcing contact or leaving unfamiliar interactions unattended.

- [ ] Use calm voices and short sessions
- [ ] Give people a clear rule for feeding and handling
- [ ] Provide separation when either animal needs space

EXAMPLE

For the first visit, guests sit quietly and allow the dog to approach rather than reaching over its head or passing it between people.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

What signals suggest this interaction should pause?

How will we keep routines calm during visitors?

HOME

Review the first week

Adjust the setup, not expectations.

NEW PET PREPARATION PACK

NOTICE PATTERNS

Review eating, rest, toileting or enclosure routines, activity, and comfort in the new home. Share factual observations with an appropriate professional when you have concerns; do not rely on internet guesses for urgent signs.

- [ ] What is going smoothly: ____
- [ ] What changed from the expected routine: ____
- [ ] Question for a qualified care provider: ____

EXAMPLE

·The puppy settles after a short evening walk but startles at the vacuum. We will keep the vacuum away during rest time and ask the trainer about gradual exposure.·

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

What change can make the space easier this week?

What concern needs professional attention rather than waiting?