

HUMANE SOCIETY OF INDIANAPOLIS

Are you ready for a dog?

Ask yourself:

- ✓ Do I have enough time for a pet? Affection, grooming, feeding and exercising is needed daily.
- ✓ Will my schedule permit someone to be home at reasonable times to let the dog outside to relieve itself? Am I willing to schedule my activities around the dog's schedule (eg. come home after work before going out with friends, not stay at work and burn the midnight oil)?
- ✓ Do I have adequate space for the dog to sleep and exercise?
- ✓ Do I have an appropriate secure place for the dog to relieve itself – if not, am I willing to go on several walks a day? Am I willing to clean up after the dog relieves itself?
- ✓ Do I mind having dog hair in my house and having to clean more often?
- ✓ Can I afford veterinary care, licensing, food, training and grooming costs? This can run up to thousands of dollars a year in sometimes unexpected expenses.
- ✓ What will I do with my dog when I go on vacation or have to travel for my job?
- ✓ Do I know about and am I willing to obey community laws concerning animals?
- ✓ Am I willing to be patient in obedience and housetraining?
- ✓ Can I deal with my favorite shoes being chewed on, and all of the messes and accidents pets have?
- ✓ Will my children be gentle to the dog and treat it well? Am I expecting them to be responsible enough to help care for the dog? Am I prepared to be completely responsible for the dog's care when they lose interest?

- ✓ What happens if I have a job-related move or other relocation? Am I willing to deal with the frustrations of finding dog-friendly housing?
- ✓ Am I willing to make a commitment to this dog for its entire life? Have I ever made a commitment that spans 15 years or more?