



Which pet is right for me?

GET SET FOR  
THE RIGHT  
**PET** ✓

[pdsa.org.uk/getpetwise](https://pdsa.org.uk/getpetwise)

**pdsa**  
PETWISE



# Introduction

This appointment is to help you discover which pet is right for you. Our team are perfectly placed to help you choose the next animal member of your family, and will help you to understand the impact a new pet can have on your household. Working with us to help identify which pet and breed are best suited to your lifestyle and where to source your new pet from are the first steps to giving them a healthy and happy life.



## Choosing the **right** ✓ pet for you

Choosing a pet can be an emotional decision. Pets we had as a child, pets we know through family and friends, or those we see in the media can all influence our decisions. We're here to look at all the facts and find out which pet may fit best with your home and lifestyle. This takes into account lots of different aspects, such as what each pet needs to be healthy and happy, what health tests you might need to check have been carried out for certain breeds, where to source your new pet and the costs involved in owning that particular pet.



# 5 welfare needs overview

## What do pets need to be healthy and happy?

A few years ago, Animal Welfare Acts were passed to protect our pets. These describe what all owners should do for their pets to keep them happy and healthy.

A pet's five welfare needs are:



### Environment

#### Living in a suitable place

They need the right type of home. This includes shelter, enough space for exercise and a comfortable resting area.



### Diet

#### Having the right amount and type of food

Pets continually need fresh water as well as the right type and amount of food to make sure they stay fit and healthy. A pet should be the right weight and shape – not too fat or too thin.



### Behaviour

#### Being allowed to show normal behaviour

Pets need to get on well with other pets and people. They need to be helped with this through training and socialisation from a young age.





## Companionship

### Living by themselves or with other pets

Some pets like to live by themselves and others like to live with other pets of their own kind. It's important to find out what your pet's needs are.



## Health

### Staying healthy

Owners need to check their pets regularly for signs of illness and injury, making sure they are treated quickly by their vet if they are ill. Vets and vet nurses can also advise owners about routine healthcare, such as vaccinations, flea treatments and wormers.



---

## Remember

Each pet is different and it's important for you to keep a close eye on your pet since any alterations in behaviour could mean that pets are upset, ill or not having their needs met. Visit [pdsa.org.uk/taking-care-of-your-pet](https://pdsa.org.uk/taking-care-of-your-pet) for information on pet care and how to keep your pet happy and healthy.

What do you need to provide for your pet?

**P**LACE



**E**XERCISE



**T**IME



**S**PEND



**K**NOWLEDGE



These are the areas we recommend you consider before choosing which pet may be right for you.

- Is your home a suitable environment for a pet?

- Would you be able to provide the right amount of exercise for them?

- Would you have the time it takes to care for your pet each day?

- Have you calculated how much they will cost throughout their life?

- Do you know about how to provide for the five welfare needs of your chosen pet?

**Don't be daunted by these questions, we're here to help. We'll go through each of these areas to help you learn about the right pet for you.**

# Get Pet Wise, what is my right pet?

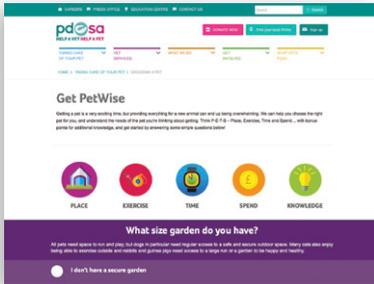
	Red	Amber	Green
<p><b>PLACE</b></p> <p>Pets need the right type of home. This includes shelter, enough space for exercise and a comfortable resting area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High risk of poisoning/hazards.</li> <li>• Not enough space for own resources.</li> <li>• Hutch available but too small.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some risk of poisoning/hazards, but these can be removed.</li> <li>• Room for items like litter trays, beds, scratching posts but not to space them out sufficiently.</li> <li>• Suitably-sized hutch or limited access to run.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poisoning/hazards safely stored out of reach.</li> <li>• Plenty of space for items like litter trays, beds, scratching posts.</li> <li>• Would have good-sized hutch available with free access to outside run.</li> </ul>
<p><b>EXERCISE</b></p> <p>Pets need exercise for mental stimulation as well as physical wellbeing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't have enough time to walk twice per day.</li> <li>• Don't enjoy going for long walks.</li> <li>• Limited exercise opportunities.</li> <li>• No space for a pet to exercise.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could arrange for a dog to be walked twice per day.</li> <li>• Exercise run would be present but not permanently available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plenty of time to take a dog for two walks per day.</li> <li>• Love going for long walks.</li> <li>• Good exercise opportunities for a cat.</li> <li>• Rabbit exercise run would be present with constant free access to it.</li> </ul>
<p><b>TIME</b></p> <p>Pets are generally sociable and dogs especially love your company.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot make provisions for pet to be looked after when out of the house for long periods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regularly out of the house for more than 4 hours at a time but can arrange for someone to go in and look after the pet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not going to regularly be out the house for more than 4 hours at a time.</li> <li>• When occasionally out for longer can make suitable arrangements for a pet.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SPEND</b></p> <p>Initial cost of the pet as well as ongoing costs such as food, vaccinations, regular parasite treatments, neutering, microchipping, toys, bedding, possible vet's fees, pet insurance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No spare money to devote to new pet.</li> <li>• Would not insure a pet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £20 – £80 per month (up to £1,000 per year).</li> <li>• Would consider insuring a pet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £125+ per month (over £2,000 per year).</li> <li>• Would definitely insure a pet.</li> </ul>
<p><b>KNOWLEDGE</b></p> <p>The reality of owning a pet can be different to what we expect. Researching as much as you can about your chosen species/breed is really important.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don't know much about the pet I want and have never had this pet before.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I've never owned this pet before but have done lots of research.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I've done lots of research and have owned this pet before.</li> </ul>

# My action plan

		NOTES
 <p><b>PLACE</b></p>	  	
 <p><b>EXERCISE</b></p>	  	
 <p><b>TIME</b></p>	  	
 <p><b>SPEND</b></p>	  	
 <p><b>KNOWLEDGE</b></p>	  	

We hope this consultation has helped you make a decision about which pet is right for you. Once you have settled your new pet in at home with you, remember to book an appointment with us for a health check so we can help you get started with the necessary preventive treatments such as vaccinations, worming, flea treatment, neutering and microchipping.

# Useful links



## Take our quiz

For more information about choosing your right pet  
#GetPetWise: [pdsa.org.uk/getpetwise](https://pdsa.org.uk/getpetwise)



## DOGS

TAKING CARE OF PUPPIES AND DOGS:

[pdsa.org.uk/dog-care](https://pdsa.org.uk/dog-care)

MORE INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC DOG BREEDS:

[pdsa.org.uk/dog-breeds](https://pdsa.org.uk/dog-breeds)

ADVICE ON HOW TO RESEARCH FINDING YOUR NEW PET DOG:

[pdsa.org.uk/new-dog](https://pdsa.org.uk/new-dog)

ADVICE ON FINDING A RESPONSIBLY BRED PUPPY:

[puppycontract.org.uk](https://puppycontract.org.uk)



## CATS

**TAKING CARE OF KITTENS AND CATS:**

[pdsa.org.uk/cat-care](https://pdsa.org.uk/cat-care)

**MORE INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC CAT BREEDS:**

[pdsa.org.uk/catbreeds](https://pdsa.org.uk/catbreeds)

**ADVICE ON HOW TO RESEARCH FINDING YOUR NEW PET CAT:**

[pdsa.org.uk/new-cat](https://pdsa.org.uk/new-cat)



## RABBITS

**TAKING CARE OF RABBITS:**

[pdsa.org.uk/rabbit-care](https://pdsa.org.uk/rabbit-care)

**MORE INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC RABBIT BREEDS:**

[pdsa.org.uk/rabbit-breeds](https://pdsa.org.uk/rabbit-breeds)

**ADVICE ON HOW TO RESEARCH FINDING YOUR NEW PET RABBIT:**

[pdsa.org.uk/new-rabbit](https://pdsa.org.uk/new-rabbit)

PRACTICE STAMP OR STICKER TO GO HERE

SW40-6227 © The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals 09/17 Registered charity nos. 208217 & SC037585

GET SET FOR  
THE RIGHT  
PET ✓

For more information on pet care, visit

[pdsa.org.uk/getpetwise](https://pdsa.org.uk/getpetwise)

Endorsed by

