

We all deserve a second chance

In animal shelters everywhere dogs, cats, birds, rabbits & co. are longingly waiting to be found a new home and family for the rest of their lives. If you want to take home a pet from the sanctuary you should first work out whether you can offer the animal everything it needs. And that applies to a 'second-hand' pet all the more, say the experts from pet food and accessories chain, Maxi Zoo. These animals have already experienced loss and under no circumstances should they end up back in the animal sanctuary just because the owner no longer likes them.



Animals from a shelter are better than their reputation suggests. They don't necessarily have to suffer from fear or anomalies because they have had bad experiences. In most cases the animals have come from a good home, but circumstances have forced the owners to give up their pets. But they often first have to build up trust to a person again. In most cases this requires, however, time and patience. But this will be richly rewarded by the animals. And another advantage: the animal shelter staff, who often know about the past history of the pet, can brief the new owners on everything they need to know. Here are some practical tips for animal lovers, who want to bring a new addition to the family from the animal sanctuary:

- Clarify first with your family whether you all share your decision to get a pet. Someone will have to be responsible for feeding it, taking it for walks, cleaning the cat litter tray or the cage— also when you are on holiday. Make sure that no one in your household has any animal allergies.
- Ask yourself whether you can really provide the appropriate care. Is there enough space for the animal to run around and do cages for smaller pets meet the needs of the animal? Animals should never be subjected to solitary confinement.

- Make sure you have enough time when you come to visit the animal shelter. This way you will have the opportunity to choose a pet in peace and get to know it better. In the case of dogs it is worth visiting the animal sanctuary several times and caring for your favourite pet. You can for example take it for walks to get to know it better and to practice dealing with it.
- Take time to speak to the animal sanctuary employees: they know the animals very well and can judge which one is right for you, for the animal you choose may not necessarily be the most suitable, e.g. if you have children or live in a small rented apartment. The sanctuary does not just give out information about the nature of its animal residents; it will also ask you about your ideas, needs and living conditions. You should appreciate this as it helps to match the "ideal" pair. Otherwise the sanctuary is neither helping the animal nor you.
- Take into consideration the fact that an animal shelter may not be able to fulfil your wishes of a certain breed or other features. Therefore do not rush into it, frequently pay the animals a visit or simply do not commit yourself from the outset – one of the fosterlings will perhaps be better suited to you than you may think.

Do not be put off by fees and security payments charged by the animal sanctuary. The sanctuary covers its costs for vets, treatments and vaccinations with these fees. And because it wants to be sure that the animals find a permanent happy household, it looks closely at details such as whether your landlord agrees to you having a pet for example. The animal sanctuary will then draw up a contract for you – and you can look forward to giving the former shelter resident the gift of a new future.



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