

WHICH PET SHOULD I BEST GET?

Animals enrich our lives as well as our daily routine: they can be friends, soul-mates, companions, someone to keep fit with or simply living creatures. That's why they are good for us humans – not only physically, but also mentally. But what can the animals expect from us? At all events, the proper care which includes the right measures of human company and their own species alike as well as correct feeding and accommodation. The experts from the specialist retail chain Maxi Zoo emphasise that whoever wants to acquire a pet should carefully weigh up in advance whether their interests fit in with the needs of the animal in question.

When you feel you would like a house pet, the first step is to find out what this entails: which pets are there anyway and which ones to consider? There are helpful books available on this subject which portray the living habits and requirements of the various types of animals. It often happens, particularly with children, that they have completely the wrong notion of their ideal animal which they may only know from watching television. Those who have the opportunity to speak with a friend or acquaintance who already keeps a pet will be able to narrow down their choice. That's how you'll find out that hamsters for instance prefer to be active at night when the kid's are already in bed. Vets and specialist shops can also advise you on finding a house pet.

CHECKLIST FOR YOUR LIFELONG PAL – HELPFUL QUESTIONS FOR MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE:

- If you're in rented accommodation: does the landlord allow the keeping of animals at all, and if so, which animals are permitted?
- Who wants the pet (child, partner, parent) and who will look after it?
- What interests you the most about an animal – do you just

PET POINTERS



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want it to look at, play with, cuddle or only for sports activities? Which animal can offer you that?

- How much activity and human devotion does the animal in question need? How much work is involved with caring for it? Do your daily commitments leave enough time for this? Which member of the family will support you?
- What is the life expectancy of the comrade of your choice? Are you prepared to carry the responsibility for that length of time?
- How well do you know its character? What are you prepared to tolerate (e.g. biting, odours, no 100% domestic cleanliness etc.)?
- What demands will your future favourite place on its upkeep: is it a loner? Does it need another of its own species around it? How much human devotion does it need?
- How are you for space: do you have room for the animal, an adequately large cage or does it need to run around?
- Who will look after your pet when you're on holiday? Are you perhaps able to take it with you?
- What do you know about feeding the animal? Are you able to provide the appropriate food for that species?
- What are the costs of acquiring, keeping and feeding? What costs are one-off and what are recurring? Have you thought about immunisation, neutering, and visits to the vet?

TIP: You can exchange ideas with other animal lovers and pet owners on the forum at www.fressnapf.de/community and get informed on the most diverse species of animals.

MAXI ZOO READING TIP: you can find informative books on individual types of animals and their needs in specialist pet shops and bookshops.



Log onto www.maxizoo.de
for more pet tips and MAXI ZOO special offers.

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