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Your Guide to Welcoming a New Pet Into Your Home During the Pandemic

If you're thinking of welcoming a new pet into your home amid the coronavirus pandemic, this guide will provide you with nearly everything you need to know about choosing the right animal companion for your household and making sure that he or she will be well-cared for in your home. For some advice on adopting a new pet during the pandemic, explore the following tips and resources, courtesy of [Broken Promises Rescue](#).

Find the Right Pet for Your Household

All companion animals are deserving of love, but the right pet for you will suit your personality, lifestyle, living space, and experience and commitment level. Here are some tips for choosing the best animal companion for you and your household!

- Ask yourself [several important questions](#) to determine whether a puppy, dog, kitten, cat, bird, rabbit, ferret, or another type of animal companion will be best for you. If you're

looking for a lower-maintenance pet, a hamster, gerbil, or mouse may be a better choice for you.

- Decide where to obtain your new pet. Many pet rescues are still [adopting out animals](#) amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Assemble a Care Team for Your New Animal Companion

Once you've chosen the right animal companion for you, it's time to assemble your pet's care team. Read on for some tips on choosing a vet, purchasing pet insurance, and finding a sitter for your new animal companion.

- [Choose a savvy veterinarian](#) for your new pet. You may need to postpone your pet's vaccinations and spay or neuter surgery amid the pandemic, but many veterinarians continue to offer curbside appointments and video consultations.
- Save on veterinary expenses by purchasing a pet insurance policy for your new animal companion. Compare the best pet insurance companies to find the [right fit](#) for you and your animal companion.
- Compile a list of [boarding centers](#), pet sitters, and dog walkers. Whether you're going away for the weekend or get sick and can't care for your new pet, you'll need someone to look after him or her.

Prepare for Bringing Your New Companion Home

- Gather the appropriate gear and accessories for your pet, and determine if your pet needs a special formula for food or treats. It's a good idea to check out reviews before deciding on a particular food.
- Pet-proof your home by limiting access to certain areas, hiding or replacing cords and moving or getting rid of certain [plants](#).
- Pets pick up on our moods; reduce stress so you both feel better. Small steps, like decluttering and adding a few houseplants, can make a big difference. Since you are considering bringing a new pet home, [optimizing your space](#) now is a good idea.

Keep Your Pet Safe, Healthy, and Well-Cared for at Home

In addition to choosing the right animal companion for you and assembling a care team for your new pet, you'll need to learn how to keep your furry or feathered friend safe and healthy at home during the pandemic. Here's how to do it.

- [Learn everything](#) you need to know about protecting your new pet from COVID-19. If you display symptoms of the virus, it's best to avoid contact with your animal companion.
- Create an [emergency care plan](#) for your new animal companion. If you get sick and cannot care for him or her, you should already have an emergency plan in place.
- [Practice social distancing](#) whenever you take your new dog out for a walk. The CDC also recommends avoiding dog parks during this time.

- [Keep your pet entertained](#) and happy at home during the pandemic. Make homemade treats for your new companion and rotate your pet's toys each day.

There are many wonderful benefits to adopting a pet during the COVID-19 outbreak, but it's important to think about your life beyond the pandemic when choosing an animal companion. Some pets require more space and socialization than others, so you'll want to ensure that you can give your new animal companion everything he or she needs during the coronavirus crisis and well into your post-pandemic life.