

## MAKING THE COMMITMENT TO A RESCUED PET

Rescued pets are the truest friends and companions you'll ever know. If you give them unconditional love, they will give it back tenfold. But it takes more than love. Having a pet in your life takes time, patience, dedication and money. Consider this carefully before you decide to adopt. When selecting a family pet, look ahead.

- Do you have enough time to commit to your pet?
- Are you willing to commit to take the pet with you should you move in the future -either in or out of state?
- Do you plan on having children and still let the pet share your life and home?
- Do you plan on moving away from home, going to college?
- What are the ages of your children still living at home and are they too young to understand to be gentle with a pet?
- What temperament in a dog/cat breed would fit your family and lifestyle?
- Are all members of the family in agreement with this decision to bring a pet into your lives?
- How will the pet fit into your family routine?
- Any allergies in the family, in friends, or in anyone who would visit that you need to consider?
- Are you willing to make the financial commitment to the pet's health beyond the normal yearly checkups and shots?
- Do you realize a dog can live up to 16 years of age or longer depending on the breed and a cat even longer?
- Are you prepared to deal with issues that require training and patience such as chewing, scratching, digging, barking, housebreaking or any other behavioral issue? This is the biggest consideration. Great pets aren't born; they are made by YOUR love and patience!

These are just some of the questions you should consider and answer honestly. These pets have each been given a second chance and they deserve to have it last for the rest of their lives, not until they become an inconvenience and are then passed on yet again. Before you make the commitment and adopt a rescued pet, you need to understand that. If you find that this is the right time to adopt a rescued pet, we would love for you to consider a United Animal Friends' dog or cat.