BEFORE GETTING A PET

Before getting a pet you should be able answer the following questions with „yes“:

**Living situation:**

- Do I want a pet for its own sake and not just as a social partner? ☐
- Can I currently guarantee that I will be able to pay for my pet’s care throughout its entire life (dogs and cats around 10–15 years; rabbits around 10 years; guinea pigs, around 7 years, etc.) ☐
- Have I learned enough about the demands a pet will place on me? ☐
- Do I have a clear picture of a pet’s requirements, and a detailed understanding of what it will really mean to be the owner of a living creature? ☐
- Will I be able to give my pet enough time to keep it occupied and provide it with social contact and exercise? ☐
- Am I ready to deal with my pet in a positive way if it exhibits behavioural issues? ☐
- Do my children understand that a pet is a living creature and not a toy? ☐
- Am I aware that my pet can get ill and that this can lead to illness-related fouling (gastrointestinal diseases)? ☐
- Am I aware that my pet will get old and that this will lead to age-related fouling (urinary dribbling)? ☐

**Accommodation:**

- Does my landlord allow tenants to keep pets? ☐
- Can I deal with the fact that a young pet will often cause damage? ☐
Allergies:
Have I ruled out the risk of allergies affecting me or members of my family (animal hair, bedding, etc)?

Costs:
Have I calculated the financial outlay required for
• Food
• Trips to the vet
• Accommodation
• Insurance
• Tax
• Equipment

Holidays, hospital stays and similar:
Is there anyone who can look after my pet if I am temporarily unable to (illness, hospital visits, etc)?

Above: Pets aren’t toys.
Centre: Young pets can be destructive.
Below: Owning a pet involves trips to the vets, which can be costly.