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Budget-Friendly Tips for Bringing Home Your First Pet

Selecting a pet is an unusual opportunity. After all, it's not every day you get to pick out who will be part of your family, but when you're adding a companion animal, that's really how it is. Here's how to decide what sort of new face will share your home, your heart, and your life, as well as a few tips on how to do so when you're on a tight budget.

Fur, Fins, Feathers, or Something Else?

A lot of factors contribute to what animal you choose. You want a pet that will mesh well with your circumstances so you'll both be happy, so think about what your life and home are like. Do you have room for a dog to run, does anyone in your home have allergies, and how much time do you plan to invest in your new friend? If you're pretty [busy](#), a cat might be a better choice than a dog, but if [allergies](#) are an issue, something that lives in a tank might be the right fit.

Even within species, there are variables to consider. You can take a [pet selector quiz](#) to help you think through what you can offer a companion animal. Whatever type of pet you decide on, consider looking at a rescue or shelter pet. You not only save an animal's life, but you can also save money since they usually have vet care before being adopted.

Create a Soft Spot to Land

Once you decide on a species, you can start gathering the supplies for your future family member. After all, finding “the one” could take a little time, and when you finally bring home your new pet, you’ll want her to be able to settle in comfortably. Most of the supplies you’ll need will be easy to figure out based on the species and size of your pet. Bedding, a crate, aquarium or birdcage, shampoo, cleaning supplies, food, bowls, toys, and so forth, can be ordered online from websites like Kohl’s. You can save time, energy, and money all at once since the company delivers to your home, and there [Kohl's coupons](#) to stretch your dollars and leave you more in your pet fund to spend on your new friend.

Because Accidents Happen

Even if your new pet is housebroken, there could be accidents during the initial adjustment period. Also, even if your new pet is normally housed in a cage or tank, you might be surprised at the occasional messes involved with tending your pet. Keeping an enzymatic cleaner handy is one of the best ways to stay on top of pet-related messes such as urine, feces, and vomit. As Multi-Clean explains, the [enzymes](#) in these products go deep into the biological material and break it down so stains and odors disappear, which is not only more sanitary, but it can also help prolong the life of your belongings. Pawsitively Clean offers a variety of enzymatic cleaners to keep up with whatever your home and pet require, and their [current savings opportunities](#) can certainly help make the most of your money.

Treasuring Time Together

Depending on the type of pet you select and the animal’s background, it could take some time for your new friend to settle into her surroundings. Plan to give your pet some space, and remember to be patient. As an example, Animal Wised notes that a cat who has never had bad experiences with people might feel right at home in a week or so, but a feline friend with some baggage might need a longer [adjustment period](#). Many dogs experience [separation anxiety](#), which you can deal with through careful training, [calming aids](#), patience, and time. If you decide your pet might benefit from a supplement to help reduce anxiety, check out current [deals](#) at retailers like Chewy, which offers free shipping when you spend \$49 or more and discounts when you schedule auto-shipping on products.

Of course, there might a few exceptions when work or life obligations keep you from meeting all of your pet’s needs. For example, if work takes you away from home for a few days, consider hiring a dog sitter to ensure your pooch gets plenty of exercise and human interaction while you’re away. City Pet Sitters has a [few guidelines](#) to follow that will ensure your four-legged friend receives the best care possible from the right individual.

Adding a new family member is a rare occasion, and doing it right is a worthwhile endeavor. Make your choices carefully to ensure you and your new pet are happy, and look for great deals to stretch your budget. Doing so will set yourself and your pet up for a bright future together.