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**Pets as Gifts – Considerations**

**Knowing your pet recipient** – Deciding to adopt a pet is a big decision, and in determining one’s readiness to do so, they have probably given much thought to whether they have the time, resources and lifestyle for a particular pet.

**Time Commitment** – Of course, bringing home a new pet is a commitment in and of itself through the transition period, and potentially, the training period, yet the commitment of owning that pet throughout their lifetime is a commitment that will last many years.

**Resource Commitment** – Although AHS adoption fees are minimal and include a variety of perks such as the spay/neuter surgery, first vaccinations and a free follow-up exam, the costs associated with the day-to-day care of a pet as well as their medical care over their lifespan is considerable, albeit well worth the expense!

**Lifestyle** – Every day we see a variety of pets go home with a variety of individuals and families, and often there is a type of pet or breed that best suits one’s lifestyle. Whether it is busy and fast-paced or laidback and relaxed, our adoption matchmakers can find the perfect fit for anyone!

**Special Needs** – In knowing your pet recipient, you will most likely know whether they have special needs. Are they allergic to pets? Do they live in a community where only cats are allowed? Knowing that special background information will certainly help in a successful transition.

**Starter Kit** – In preparing for a new pet, it is important to have all of the necessities ready to greet that new pet. A comfy bed, food, treats, leash, bowl, collar and toys are just a few things to consider.

**Pet Introductions –** AHS’ adoption matchmakers can help provide tips and literature for the best ways to introduce a new pet into a home or to other four-legged family members.