

Things to Consider Before Getting a Pet

Owning a pet presents difficulties to renters. Finding an apartment is more challenging as most Iowa City area leases prohibit animals. Apartments where animals are allowed will almost always require additional damage deposits or other non-refundable fees.

Does your lease allow pets?

Your lease may limit the number, type, and size of pets allowed. Is there an extra deposit required? Is the deposit refundable? Any agreement regarding pet ownership needs to be in writing. Keeping an unauthorized pet is in direct violation of your lease, and can result in eviction.

Can you afford a pet?

Vaccinations...neutering...lab cost...flea and tick medication...heartworm protection... license fees... according to the Iowa City Animal Shelter, a puppy or kitten costs between \$300-\$650 during the first year of life.

How will you take care of your pet?

Animals need training and attention. Who will walk the dog when you leave for winter break? What if the dog barks excessively when you are not home? What if your neighbors complain? Are your roommates allergic to animals? Are your roommates willing to help take care of the pet when you are not home?

What if you have to move?

According to the Iowa City Animal Center "we're moving" is the most common excuse for abandoning animals.

The Animal Center provides helpful information to consider before you take on the responsibilities of caring for an animal, and provides expert advice and support for people once they own an animal. Find out more by visiting their web site at <http://www.icanimalcenter.org>.

If you love animals but can't keep a pet, consider joining the many students who volunteer at the Animal and Adoption Center.