



CHOOSING THE RIGHT CRITTER

Have you been thinking about adopting a new pet? A Critter's Chance wants to make sure you are well informed before you adopt. There are several things to consider.

1. What is your motivation? Why do you truly want this pet? Is it just because it looks cool?
2. Is the animal legal where you live? You may have to get special permits to even keep this animal. It is illegal to make NATIVE INDIANA WILDLIFE your pet.
3. What will the adult size be? Many people get baby iguanas thinking they will stay two feet long. Average adult iguanas grow to be six feet long. You will have to specially make a cage for an adult iguana. Animals that are unable to grow properly will develop serious health problems.
4. Is the animal a social critter? Do you want an animal to snuggle and play with?
5. What are the feeding requirements? Commercially prepared foods are available for a lot of species, but other species may require a variety of fresh foods daily or even mice and insects.
6. What are the habitat and housing requirements? Some pets may need specially made enclosures with lots and lots of room. Others may need special ultraviolet lighting.
7. Expenses add up with some pets, special housing, food, vet care, etc.
8. Which veterinarian will you use? Most vets only see dogs and cats. You will need to find a reliable veterinarian that knows about your type of pet. A Critter's Chance can help you find good veterinarians.
9. What are your long-term goals? Do you plan on getting married? Will your spouse like your animal? Are you planning on college, children, etc?
10. Will this animal be compatible with your other animals?

11. Have you considered the lifespan of this animal? Some reptiles and birds will outlive you. Who will care for your animal when you are gone?
12. What are the activity levels of this critter? Some animals are active at night.
13. Are there any destructive tendencies of this critter? Some pets like to dig, chew, scratch, etc.
14. What is the availability of pet sitters? Who will care for your animal while you are on vacation? Most pet sitters may not want to or know how to care for an exotic pet.
15. Are there any health concerns? Some critters can carry diseases that can be transmitted to humans and your other animals.
16. Some critters will be much happier with a buddy. You will not always be there, and some critters will need another animal as a companion. A Critter's Chance often adopts out two to three animals at a time for this very reason.
17. Any potential danger from this animal? Some pets can be aggressive without handling every day.

Remember to research your animal and consider all these factors before adopting an animal. Always adopt! Never buy animals! Also, please remember, when you adopt an animal, you adopt it for that animal's entire life.