

Options other than Adoption:

Volunteering

If you love animals and decide pet ownership is not for you, volunteering with us is a great way to still experience the love of a companion animal. We offer a wide variety of volunteer opportunities.

Fostering

Fostering an animal while in college is a great alternative to pet ownership. A pet foster parent is someone who is willing to provide a short-term home to shelter animals in need of care before becoming available for adoption. Any medical needs are taken care of by the Animal Shelter while the animal waits for their forever home.

To find out more about either of these programs, please visit our website at:

bloomington.in.gov/animalshelter

Leash Laws

When off of property all dogs must be on leash. Our community is home to many people and animals. Some of them love other dogs, but some do not. The leash law assists in promoting respect for our fellow residents of Bloomington.

Animal Care Standards

Animals should not be forced to stand in their own feces or urine and any tie outs or tethers should be constructed in a way that prevents the dog from getting tangled or leaving private property.

While it is normal for animals to vocalize, animal owner's are required to provide proper housing and mental activities to prevent them from barking excessively. Excessive barking can be seen as a nuisance per Bloomington Ordinance.

What about emotional support animals?

Emotional support animals are not exempt from any of the Bloomington Ordinances regarding animals.

Bloomington Municipal Code Title 7: Animals
library.municode.com/in/bloomington/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT7_AN



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Bloomington.in.gov/animalshelter

College Student Pet Adoption Information



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College Student Pet Adoption Considerations:

Owning a pet for the first time is an exciting and life changing experience. The decision to bring a pet into your home should be made after extensive research and consideration. Our goal of adoption is to place the animal in a *life long home*, where the pet's needs will be met and the pet will receive proper care.

Things to consider:

Day to Day Schedule

Being a college student, one of the most important things to explore before you adopt your new best friend is your schedule.

- Do you have time for a pet? Pets require daily attention, exercise and training, especially puppies and kittens. This can be challenging for a college student.
- If you find yourself rarely at home, always in class, at the library, on campus studying, at social events, or working, your busy schedule may not be conducive to meeting the needs of a pet.
- Can you be home on a regular schedule to take a dog out for exercise and bathroom breaks?

Financial Planning

Pets can be expensive and it is essential that you have enough money to easily manage all of their needs. Take a look at your expenses, earnings, and savings to be sure that you have the means to support a pet, including any emergencies that might occur.

- Pets require food, toys, flea medication, heartworm medication, leashes, beds, crates, vaccinations, health care, and more.
- Landlords require pet deposits and monthly pet fees.
- Consider how often you will travel and the cost of boarding/pet sitting.

Living Situation

Carefully consider your current and future living situations before bringing home a new pet.

- Dorms prohibit all pets. Apartment complexes and rental homes can have breed restrictions, weight limits or other limitations.
- If you live with friends, you should discuss the idea of getting a pet with them. While your pet will be your own, he or she will be living in the same home as your roommates. Be sure that everyone involved is in agreement. It's also important to make sure your roommates are not allergic to your new pet.
- Consider things like where you will put the litter box, where your pet will stay when you are gone, and the size of your place and your potential pet. If you don't have access to a private yard, be sure you consider how your dog will go "out" and where you can take them to exercise. Be sure that you have a space that can be a happy and healthy living space for your pet.

Breaks and Holidays

Preparing to go on vacation or return home for break can be stressful when owning a pet.

- Where will your pet go while you are away?
- If you plan to take the pet home with you, have you discussed this with your parents?
- Do you have responsible friends who can pet sit or do you have the ability to pay for boarding or professional pet sitters?
- Where will your pet go in case of an emergency?

After College

It is extremely important to consider where your pet will go once you graduate.

- Will you take a job across the country or abroad? Will you be able to maintain your *life long* commitment? Making a move with a pet can be extremely stressful for both of you.
- Are you willing to find a new apartment or home that will allow your pet, even if that means paying a larger deposit or choosing a less desirable location?

International Students

As emphasized previously, a *life long* home is what each animal deserves when acquired. Obtaining a pet while here for college should be a decision that is carefully thought out. Acquiring a pet to have only for a few years while in college is not an ideal situation for the pet or for you.

- Many international students will return to their home country after college. In this case, where will your pet go? Will your pet return home with you?
- Each country has different requirements for bringing a pet into that specific country. When adopting a pet it is important to research these requirements before adopting your new animal. Taking a pet to a different country is a lengthy, expensive and stressful process.

Legal Consequences

There are legal consequences for failing to provide proper care for your animals. Those consequences include:

- \$50 ticket for animal care for animals who are not provided proper food, water or shelter or are living in unsanitary conditions;
- \$500 ticket for abandoning an animal;
- \$2,500 ticket for cruelty, abuse or neglect;
- Prosecution through the Monroe County Prosecutor's Office in accordance with the state statutes on abuse or neglect.