

Directions:

The following passages are about adopting pets from animal shelters. Write an informative essay in which you explain why you should consider rescuing a pet instead of buying one from a store. Use information from the sources to support your essay.

Manage your time carefully so that you can:

- Read the passages;
- Plan your response:
- Write your response:
- Revise and edit your response

Be sure to include:

- An introduction;
- Support for your controlling idea using information from the passages;
- A conclusion that is related to your controlling idea

Your writing should be in the form of a well-organized, multi paragraph essay.

Source #1

Man's Best Friend

Pets are a lot of work. Before you can even consider bringing a new furry friend home, there are many things to contemplate. For instance, do you have the time to dedicate to a new pet? Do you know how to take care of one? If so, can you afford their food, their toys, and their veterinarian bills? If you answered yes to all these things and have done your research on how to take care of your pet, then you are ready to make the biggest decision of all: Where will you get your pet from?



It may seem like a silly question, but it's a very important one to ask. There are many options for new pet owners to choose from, but only one place that is beneficial to both you and your new-found friend.

Animal Shelters:

An animal shelter is a place where homeless or abandoned pets live. Some of these animals were found on the streets, while some were brought in by families who loved their pets, but could no longer take care of them. Regardless of where these loving creatures come from, they all have the same problem: they are in need of a new home and a family to care for them.

No animal shelter is the same. Some of them –like public schools- are paid for by our government, while some are privately run and supported by donations. Some are big, and some are small, but they all have the same mission in mind; they all want to help protect animals. Without shelters, these animals would still be stuck on the streets. And we wouldn't have the opportunity to find new, best friends for ourselves.

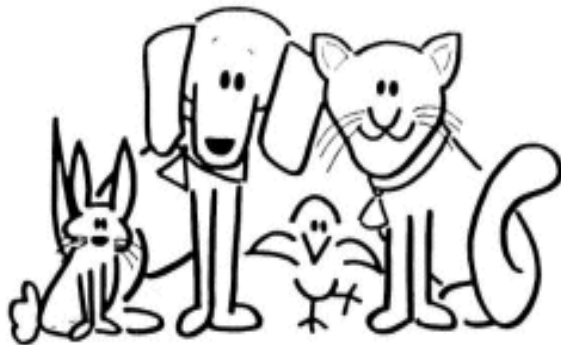
Source #2

Adopt-A-Pet

*Thinking about getting a new furry friend at home?
Consider adopting! Here are a few reasons why:*

You Can Save A Life: While animal shelters and humane societies do all that they can for their pets, there are simply too many unwanted animals to help them all. Because of this, over 2.7 million cats and dogs are *euthanized*, or put to sleep, each year. By adopting from a local shelter, you are not only saving your new pet's life, you are helping make space for another animal that may need a temporary home in a shelter!

Pets Are Well Tempered: While every pet is different, going to a shelter is a safe way to find an animal that is friendly. Pets at shelters have been *socialized*, or played with, by local volunteers at the shelters, and must be friendly for the society to keep them for adoption. These animals are also usually former pets from other homes, meaning they have been trained and loved their whole lives; PURRfectly ready to love you right back!



Save Your Money: While puppies and kittens from private stores or breeders can cost hundreds to thousands of dollars, animals at the shelter are VERY inexpensive. In fact, most shelters give you the animals for free, they just charge you for the animals' vet bills and ask for a small, monetary donation. This donation goes towards helping feed and clean all the other animals they are taking care of; you get to be a hero twice in one day!

Being Socially Responsible: In today's ever changing culture, people are starting to think of responsible decisions as "cool" decisions. Adopting a pet is something many people brag about, and other adopters –like yourself- will love to hear about how you saved your pet! *"DOG RESCUE" slogans are the new cool!*

“Tails” of a Stray

The following poems are about adopting animals. The first, a poem by Diane Morgan, is about a woman who helps care for animals while they are in the shelter.

She highlights the feeling of joy she feels being a hero for these animals. The second, a poem by an unknown author, is written from a stray dog's point of view; telling his story about waiting for his new family to find him.

A Poem to my Foster Dog

I am the bridge,
Between what was and what can be.
I am the pathway to a new life.

I am made of mush,
Because my heart melted when I saw you,
Matted and sore, limping, depressed
Lonely, unwanted, afraid to love.

For one little time you are mine.
I will feed you with my own hand.
I will love you with my whole heart.
I will make you whole.

I am made of steel.
Because when the time comes,
When you are well, and sleek,
when your eyes shine,
And your tail wags with joy
Then comes the hard part.

I will let you go-not without a tear,
But without a regret.
For you are safe forever--
A new dog needs me now.

Author: Diane Morgan

“Tails” of a Stray

I'm waiting here in foster care
For you to come and see;
The one the others have passed by,
Please stop and look at me!
I'm not along here in my quest
to find myself a place.
Where someone will have love for me
And softly stroke my face;
Our faces have a bit of white,
our legs a slower gait.
Our hearts so full of love to give,
But still, we sit and wait.

Too big, too small, too brown, too blue,
too black, too old, too shy.
We may not be the perfect dogs
in everybody's eyes.

But unless you sit and take the time
to see all we can be.
You'll miss that is right here:
Please, stop! Please look at me.

-Author Unknown

