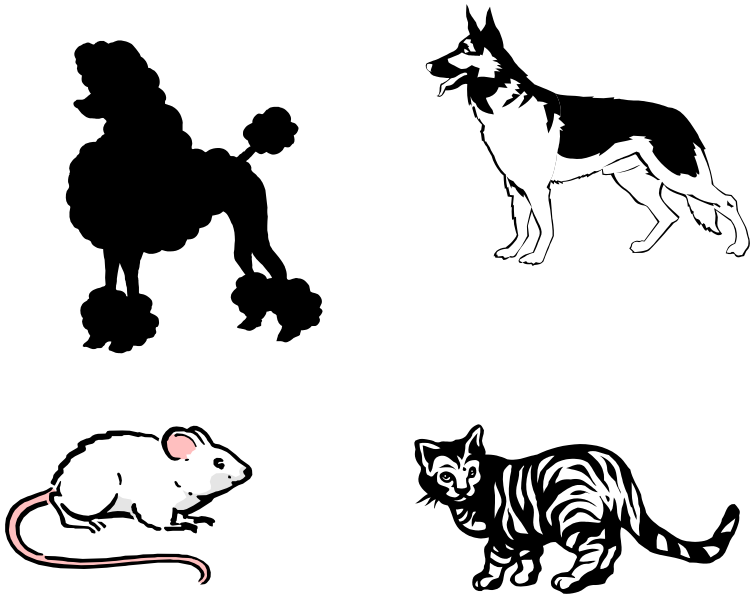

Keokuk Animal Services
249 carbide lane
P.O. box 1147
Keokuk, ia 52632
(319) 526-5421

IS THIS THE BEST TIME TO ADOPT A PET?

Keokuk Animal Services

249 Carbide Lane
P.O. Box 1147
Keokuk, IA 52632
(319) 526-5421

Pets add fun, companionship and love to our lives, but they're also a big responsibility. Choosing to add a pet to your family is a very important decision. Sometimes, adopting a pet may be too much added responsibility if you're experiencing other life-changes at the same time. Take this quiz to assess what's happening in your life now, and in the near future, to help you decide if this is the best time to adopt a pet.

Check the following events that have either occurred in your life in the past six months, or that you think may occur in the coming six months.

- Divorce or end of a relationship
- Marriage
- Change in living arrangements (new roommates or moving in with significant other)
- Move to a new residence
- Pregnancy or new baby
- Longer hours or increased responsibility at work
- Financial concerns
- Children leaving home or moving back home
- Care-taking responsibilities for elderly or ill family member
- Significant changes in family routine
- Death of a family member
- Death or disappearance of a family pet
- Relinquishment of a pet (given away or brought to an animal shelter)
- Significant health problems of a family member
- Change in working status of a family member (begins work, changes jobs or retires)
- Frequent travel, either for business or pleasure
- Limited leisure or free time
- Graduation from high school or college
- Disagreement among family members about adopting a pet

Add one point for every pet you currently have (one aquarium counts as one pet).

Scoring

0-3: Your life seems fairly stable. Now is probably a reasonable time to acquire a pet.

4-6: You have a lot of responsibilities right now. Although adopting a pet may still work for you, a small mammal, an adult cat, or well-trained, adult dog would probably be more appropriate than a kitten, a puppy or an active breed of dog.

7-10: Let's think twice about this. With all the changes and responsibilities in your life right now, you may not have time to care for a new pet. It would probably be better for both you and the pet if you wait until your life settles down a bit.

10+: **STOP! DON'T PASS GO!** Acquiring a pet now is not a wise decision. Why not consider a pet rock or a "computer-pet" instead

Lifetime Commitment

Animal companions are a lifetime commitment. If your life is in a state of flux and you're not sure what the future holds, it's probably not the right time to get a pet. If your life is settled and you are ready to make a lifetime commitment to an animal we will be happy to assist you in finding the animal companion that will be right for you.

We don't mean to discourage you from adopting a animal. We just want the time to be right for you and the animal you choose.

Thank you for making a well-thought-out decision.

The Staff of Keokuk Animal Services