



5 Reasons Pets Are Returned To Shelters

1. **ALLERGIES** – Ask about allergy history of adopters, as well as family members. Ask what he/she would do if allergies developed in a family member. What is the adopter's plan if this happens?

Solutions:

*frequent vacuuming
frequent pet grooming
air filter system
special medications
dietary adjustments
block off sleeping quarters*

2. **LIFE CHANGES** – Ask adopters to provide a plan for the animal's future in the event of re-location, divorce or new baby.

3. **LITTERBOX PROBLEMS/HOUSEBREAKING** –

Solutions:

*frequent litter cleaning
controlled confinement
humane training techniques
medication
animal behavioral counseling*

4. **BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS** –

Cats:

- scratching furniture
- jumping on counters
- eating, digging – houseplants

Some Solutions:

- water spray bottle
- scratching post
- spay/neuter

Dogs:

- snapping/nipping
- jumping
- chewing
- scratching the door
- excessive barking

Some Solutions:

- controlled confinement
- fencing
- training
- spay/neuter

5. **NOT ENOUGH TIME FOR ANIMALS** – Screening potential adopters is usually the best defense against this problem.