



Brian Kilcommons, animal trainer, author, pet expert and lecturer, says pets are wonderful sources of companionship, love, security and fun for people of all ages.

younger cats or kittens, but their personalities are well established. While a grown cat may adjust slightly to your household, don't count on any major personality changes. A kitten's personality, on the other hand, is more likely to be shaped by you.

There is a wide variety of purebred and domestic cats to choose from. Most often purebred cats and kittens are available only from breeders. Domestic kittens and cats can be obtained from humane societies or private owners.

If you have more time to devote to your pet, consider a dog. There is a wide range of dogs to choose from, and the requirements of each will vary with size, age, breed and temperament.

In general, a purebred dog will cost more initially than a mixed-breed, and a puppy more than an adult dog. A small dog will be less expensive to feed than a large dog, and a short-hair dog will require less grooming than a long-hair dog.

People who want a puppy often select a purebred so that future size and appearance will be predictable. However, the paws and head of a mixed-breed puppy will give fairly accurate clues as to its future size and appearance. If they are large relative to the body, the dog probably will be larger than average. If the paws and head are proportional to the body, the dog most likely will be a small to medium adult dog.

THE SIZE of a dog frequently determines the amount of space required. As a rule, smaller dogs will adapt better to a small residence and require less exercise than larger dogs. However, an older dog,

regardless of size, will be more content with a smaller residence and a less-active lifestyle than a young dog.

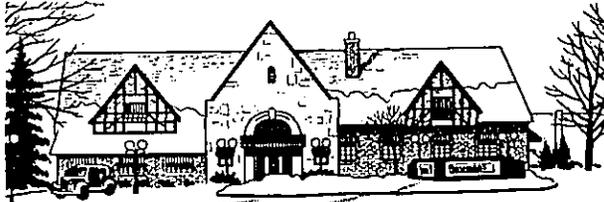
Just as important as a dog's physical characteristics is his temperament or personality. A dog that is sure of himself will be more predictable and probably easier to train and establish a relationship with.

Some parents will not bring home a pet unless they make an unworkable bargain that the child assumes full responsibility for the animal. Other parents are fearful of the child assuming any of the chores for fear of harming the animal or the child. There are some aspects of pet care that should always be handled by an adult. However, many activities connected with a pet's health and happiness can and should be the sole province of the younger members of the household, according to a pamphlet prepared by the ALPO Center for Advanced Pet Study in Allentown, Pa.

When a dog is more than 1 year old it is fed only once a day, and most children can handle that. Grooming and walking the dog are activities that children generally love and can handle by themselves, the pamphlet said.

Of course, obedience training requires an adult's sure hand, if only in a supervisory capacity. All manner of dog disasters — dogfights, dog bites, dog damage or lost dogs — also must be fielded by an adult who has better judgment and mobility.

A trip to the veterinarian's office can be a shared activity. Simple medical chores, such as giving medicine and checking for fleas, and bathing the dog can be shared experiences or ones that older children handle on their own.



NORMAN'S

ETON STREET STATION
Site of Birmingham's Historic Train Station

After You Shop...

- Wide Variety of Menu Choices \$3⁹⁵ - \$11⁵⁰
- Sunday Brunch 10:30 - 2:30
- Early Dinner Specials
Monday - Thursday 4-6 p.m. \$5⁹⁵
- Open 7 Days a Week
- Nightly Entertainment, Monday - Saturday
- Valet Parking Available
- Gift Certificates

245 S. ETON • BIRMINGHAM • 647-7774
South of Maple between Adams & Coolidge

Stop in and Visit



Family Gathering Place

There is a private, self-contained party room that can be arranged to accommodate parties from 80 - 225 guests and is very comfortably and beautifully furnished.

1403 Commerce Road • Walled Lake • MI • 624-6660



From Norm & Bonnie LaPage "Your Hosts"

