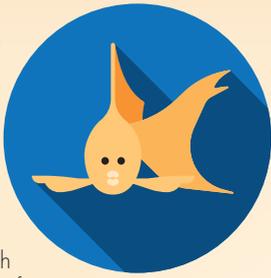


Goldfish
 You're not ready for the big leagues yet and that's totally OK: A starter pet like a goldfish can be great for teaching the kids how to take care of an animal.



Cat
 You want a low-maintenance animal? You got it. Bonus: They cuddle (when they want to).



Basset Hound
 They need exercise to stay fit (don't we all?), but otherwise basset hounds are lazy, amiable companions; they'll even put up with some amount of ear-pulling.

Maybe not ... Yes!

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT A COMPANION ANIMAL?

We'd rather not. We're up for it.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT TRAINING?

How often are you home?

We're hardly ever home. We spend time around the house.

HOW OFTEN ARE YOU HOME?

Take a walk around the neighborhood? Cuddle?

WOULD YOU RATHER ...

How high-energy is your crowd?

We need a running companion. We're pretty low-key. We're somewhat active.

HOW HIGH-ENERGY IS YOUR CROWD?

When you're out and about, can the dog participate?

Not really. Yes, we're mostly outdoors.

WHEN YOU'RE OUT AND ABOUT, CAN THE DOG PARTICIPATE?

Describe your yard in two words.

Running room. Postage stamp.

DESCRIBE YOUR YARD IN TWO WORDS.

Do you have kids in kindergarten or younger?

No. Yes.

DO YOU HAVE KIDS IN KINDERGARTEN OR YOUNGER?

Golden Retriever
 If your family has excess energy, a golden retriever will be happy to help you expend it. These dogs retrieve (ha!), they run, they play and they mesh well with kids of all ages.



Ready to handle a big dog?

Bring it! Smaller, please.

READY TO HANDLE A BIG DOG?

What's your idea of fun with the dog?

Taking walks or playing fetch. Lots of petting and snuggling!

WHAT'S YOUR IDEA OF FUN WITH THE DOG?

Ready to pay for feeding a big dog?

My wallet is ready. On second thought ...

READY TO PAY FOR FEEDING A BIG DOG?

Beagle
 Big enough to withstand toddlers but small enough to handle suburbia, the beagle is an ideal first dog for an active family.



Boston Terrier
 For kids old enough to handle a small dog — or families with no yard — this city breed is sturdy, playful and just plain hilarious to look at.



Shih Tzu
 Lap dogs are easy pets for small spaces and busy families, but be careful introducing a toy dog to young kids: You don't want the dog to feel kicked around, literally.



Standard Poodle
 Though they require meticulous grooming to maintain that fabulous hair, poodles thrive in a variety of lifestyles and living situations — as long as you don't mind a dog who's smarter than you.