**What to Consider when Adopting a new Pet.**

* Most of the time the shelter does not have much background information about the pets up for adoption. Because of this we use a system developed by the ASPCA known as Meet Your Match (MYM for short). This program puts the animals of a certain age through a series of "tests". Each step of the testing allows the animal to score points. At the conclusion of the testing the scores are tallied and that will determine its Canine-ality, Feline-ality or Puppy-ality (TM). This will allow us to get an idea of what that animals personality is like. The animals are then "colour coded". There are 3 basic types (Green, Orange, Purple), and then there are three divisions within each colour. Basically, the Green animals are the most outgoing and can usually adapt to any environment. The Orange animals are in the middle. The Purple animals are more timid/shy and would be recommended to quieter homes. When you come into the shelter you will be asked to fill out a brief survey. Again, your answers are tallied to determine (based on your answers) what type of dog/cat would do best in your home. It does not mean that you cannot adopt and animal that is outside of your "colour", just keep in mind that what it does mean is that the new pet may not behave as you expected/wanted.
* Beyond their personalities you will need to consider things such as: how active you are and how much activity you can provide to a busy animal; are their children in the home (not all dogs are comfortable around young children); are there other dogs/pets in the home (time will need to be taken to introduce them until they are comfortable with each other, we will also arrange for a time for you to bring in your existing dog to meet the potential new dog prior to taking it home).
* We recommend that all members of the family be involved with the adoption process. Parents with children should come and meet the dogs available first. Then if there is a dog available for adoption that would do well with children a "meet and greet" can be arranged with the children prior to taking the dog home.
* What resources do you have to enable you to care for the new pet? Pets will require food, food/water dishes, toys, litter (cats), veterinary care (both routine and the potential for emergencies), training (dogs), yearly license (dogs).