Given that there are so many pets available that people can purchase or adopt, choosing the right family pet can be difficult. A variety of pets are available in pet stores and even more are available in shelters. Regardless of where pets may be purchased or adopted, there are an excess of pets available in this country. In fact in American, because of the high number of breeders, as well as abandoned pets, there are over 30,000 animals that get euthanized on a daily basis. Thus people should consider owning an animal to reduce the number of deaths that occur and should choose animals that fit their lifestyles so they do not get returned and put at risk of euthanized.

 Some of the most common and traditional pets are mammals. These include cats, dogs, and some types of birds. All of these animals are available from pet stores, animal shelters, rescues and private breeders, and require certain amounts of space. Given that they can growth at different rates and live for different durations of time, one must consider how large their home is for the pet and if the pet can live comfortably there. Accordingly, it is important that owners choose the right size animal and be aware of their lifespan, too. Owners should have space for their animals to run and play, such that access to a backyard, or near-by park is important and available wherever the owner lives and may move. While some pets may not require outdoor space, owners should still provide environmental stimulation and enrichment.

 When owning a pet, it is important that owners consider the financial and legal obligations of owning a pet. Certain types of birds and most cats and dogs are easy to care for, and not expensive. However, if the animal gets sick, veterinary bills can become very costly. Moreover, depending on where one lives annual pet permits and vaccinations may be necessary, and these are also costly. Other costs may be incurred if pets have to be put on one’s homeowner’s insurance. In a year, I typically spend about $1000 on my dog without veterinary bills, where as I spend just about half that on my cat, so long as it does not need extra visits to the vet. My aunt, a bird-owner, spends an average of $300 on her bird per year. Thus, when determining what pet is right for oneself, it is important to calculate how much one can afford and if they would have money for emergency veterinary visits.

 As a life-long dog and cat owner, and caretaker, I know that most mammal pets will live at least 10 years and require constant attention and care. In my opinion, I recommend adoption. All of my pets have been adopted. There are so many wonderful pets waiting quietly in the shelters kennels for their forever home. You would be amazed of the love and loyalty those pets are capable of. From a pragmatic perspective, adopting a pet helps reduce the initial costs of pet ownership. Many shelters with spay or neuter an animal free of charge and some will even cover the costs of vaccinations. From owning both store and shelter animals, I know that no store animal has ever been as loyal as a shelter animal, and that they make wonderful companions. Adopting an animal brings both new life to the animal and the owner, too.

 While some people prefer mammal pets, there are a number of people who enjoy non-mammal pets. Non-mammal pets can be purchased mostly from pet stores or specialty fish/reptile stores with a wide variety of non-mammal pets available for purchase. To care for these pets, one must consider where they will live and for how long they will live. Animals such as lizards, snakes, turtles and tortoises that come in a variety of sizes, will require a special cage or tank set-up that does not allow for escapes along with a heat source or special light. They are very long-lived and owners should plan on owning them for the duration of their life. Moreover, the amount of space these animals may use is typically smaller than that of mammal pets. For other types of pets such as exotic pets, space may be incredibly important and they may need a lot of it. Their lifespan may be short or long, depending on the species, and owners should plan for this accordingly.

 The majority of financial and legal obligations associated with owning a non-mammal pet are limited. Like mammal pets they may have an impact on homeowners’ insurance and require expensive veterinary visits. Given that so few people own exotic pets, permitting and license regulations are rare, and this may make them somewhat cheaper to own, even if their initial cost is expensive.

 There are a variety of factors that need to be accessed before deciding upon which pet to purchase. Some pets may have a large price tag, require a large amount of care, and require expensive products to keep them safe. Moreover there are serious costs incurred if a pet lives for a very long time and require special licenses or insurance to own them.

 While trying to find the right pet can be very hard for a family, the variety available helps families find the one that best suits their lifestyle, financial commitment, and accommodation type. Each kind of pet has his or her own special requirements that need to be considered before taking the step to find the right pet for a person or family. One should make sure to research their pets of interest in detail before making this very important and special purchase.