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Tips for Bringing Home a New Pet After Losing Your Furry Friend

By Mike Nicholson in Memory of Sadie

Bringing home a new cat or dog after losing your pet can come with varied emotions. On the one hand, it will be exciting to invite a new member of the family into your home. On the other hand, there will be some emotional challenges as you'll still be missing your lost pet. Use this guide to learn how to cope and how to get your home ready for your new pet.

When is the right time to bring home a new pet?

Losing a pet is a heartbreaking event for families, and it's important to give your whole family time to heal from the loss. Fortunately, there are resources for families who are struggling with the change: connect with [grief support](#) groups to help you through this difficult time.

There are ways to help your family achieve closure, such as holding a [memorial service](#) for your pet. Spend an evening looking at photos together and speaking about your memories of your

lost pet. Invite family members to say a few words, whether it's a poem or a letter to say goodbye.

After you've achieved some sense of closure, it might be time to begin looking for a new pet. If you have children, it's important to talk to them [before making a decision](#) — if you bring home a new pet too soon after losing a pet, it can create problems. Grieving can take longer for some than others, so check in with all family members before bringing home a new pet.

Getting prepared

Before you jump onto PetFinder, do some research and consider what type of pet would be best for your family. If your family loved the breed of your old pet, it's a great idea to find another dog or cat of the same breed. This can be especially helpful to make the transition easier as you get used to a new pet's personality.

Consider whether you want to get a rescue pet or buy from a breeder. Adopting a rescue is a [fantastic idea](#) — not only will you be saving a life, but you'll also help fight against harmful puppy mills. A rescue animal may take some extra training, but the gratitude and connection you'll make with your new pet will be worth the effort. If you choose to get a pet from a [breeder](#), make sure you're buying from a reputable breeder, and ensure there's proper care of the animals before you support their business.

Get necessary supplies

When it comes time to bring your new pet home, make sure you have the necessary supplies. Important supplies include a bed, food and water bowls, toys, treats, and food. You can get great deals on pet supplies using [Kohl's coupons](#) — just make sure you read reviews before you buy.

Many cities require that dogs be licensed, so do your research and register your pet if necessary. Be sure to research vets in your area so you know where to go if there's an emergency. Most pets will need [vaccinations](#) to guard against rabies and other diseases, so check with your local animal hospital for recommended shots. You'll also likely need to spay or neuter your pet, especially if you live in a city.

Bonding with your new pet

It may take some [time to bond](#) with your new pet, but be patient and try not to compare your new pet to your old one. Recognize that while you miss your old furry friend, your new pet will give you many years of companionship and will help you heal from losing your pet.

Getting a new companion will take an adjustment, but with patience, you'll be able to heal and have a great new relationship with your new pet. Give yourself enough time to grieve, and do the research before you get a new pet. Be sure to get new supplies, and allow plenty of time for bonding with your new cat or dog.

If facing a tough decision for a pet whose health is fading, contact [Tranquil Passing](#) to learn about your options.