When you're ready to welcome a pet into your home, use this checklist to help guide your decision:

Assessment of facility/environment

☐ Have you been able to view the facility where the animals are housed?
☐ Are the essentials available in the animals' environment (food, water, enrichment, heat lamps, etc.)?
☐ Is the facility clean?
☐ Are references for the seller available on request?
☐ If it's a breeding facility, is the mother there and available for you to view?
☐ Have you been asked pertinent questions to establish compatibility?

Health issues and physical appearance

☐ Does the animal appear to be in good health? Symptoms of concern:
  • Bloating in the abdomen.
  • Lethargy.
  • Discharge from the eyes or nose.
  • Cuts, abrasions or bald patches.
  • Thin body.
  • Vomiting, diarrhea.

☐ If applicable, are copies of health and vaccination certificates, and a record of the animals last visit to the veterinarian available for you to view?

Documentation of sale

☐ Will you be provided a bill of sale listing:
  • Date of purchase.
  • Names of buyer and seller.
  • Description of the animal.
  • Purchase price.

☐ Will you be provided a written guarantee that includes:
  • Specific details of pet return or compensation details in the event of a health problem/illness and any time frames that apply?
  • What is expected of the buyer (i.e. exam by a veterinarian within a certain time frame).
  • Description of the animal.
  • Purchase price.

You should be able to check every box!

Checklist adapted from the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council