

For people who have no one that can serve as a potential caregiver; animal sanctuaries and perpetual care programs can be good options but may not be able to provide the level of care your pet is accustomed to. We recommend that you inspect the program or facility to make sure it could be an environment where your pet will receive adequate love and care.

The following is a list of questions to ask the organization you are considering:

How long has the program existed? How is the program funded? Is the program appropriately licensed? What happens to the pets if the program is unable to continue? What is the relative experience and training of the employees and owners? What is the pet to person ratio? How much human attention does each pet receive on a daily basis?

What is the financial commitment required for each pet? How much has to be paid in advance?

What is their capacity for pets? What are the physical conditions of the facility? What type of space do the pets have (IE are they kept in cages)?

Are there references you can discuss the program with?

Are pets adopted out or do they remain at a facility permanently? What does their adoption process entail? How do they follow up with adoptions? What is the programs policy about returning pets?

What level of veterinary care is provided? Is veterinary care administered by licensed veterinarians or by interns? Do pets receive regular examinations? How are medical emergencies handled? What is their position on euthanasia? (You might consider meeting the veterinarians that support the program)

What type of food do they feed their pets? When are the pets fed? Will they accommodate special diets?

What type of exercise routine is typical for the pets in their care?

Does the program accept pets regardless of age and medical needs?

Will they honor special burial requests?