

keeping them or indeed how big they will become. Take a case where a family are attracted by a cuddly St. Bernard pup they see in a pet shop. They decide to buy it although it's expensive. Within six months it grows into a huge 60 kg. dog. It becomes too strong for the children to take for walks and because it isn't given enough exercise starts to destroy their house and garden. Being long-haired it sheds hair and needs a lot of grooming, it also has to be kept in an air-conditioned room in summer. Food bills and veterinary costs mount up. It's not only troublesome but also costs a fortune to keep. If this family had given the matter some thought

before they bought it they wouldn't be faced with what to do with such a huge unwanted dog later.

In other cases the family situation changes and the animal becomes inconvenient or unwanted in their lives.

There are many other trivial reasons for throwing away pets but more than any other, housing is a key factor in pet abandonment. Most apartment buildings forbid the keeping of pets so people keep them secretly. It may be easy to hide a small puppy but when it becomes an adult dog they are found out. People need pets in their lives. They make wonderful companions for elderly people and for children, they are not only

