

## How To Decide If A Dog Is Right For You

Early morning walks, cold noses waking you up. Are you really ready for all that a dog needs? Do you know where your local veterinarian is? What kind of dog do you want? Are you ready to play pick up maid? Do you really like those shoes? How about that new white carpet you just put in? Are you very attached to it staying white? These are all things you must think of when you go to purchase or adopt a new member of your family.

A dog can be a great addition to your family as long as you are all in it together. A dog needs lots of attention and training in order to be a joy instead of a pain. Also think of the type of dog you wish to get. Do you live in an apartment? House? Condo? Do they even allow dogs? If they do then what type of dog do you want? If you live in an apartment I would not suggest getting something like a German shepherd or a Newfoundland, both breeds are large and demand more room out of your small space. Think extra warm bed hog!

Does everyone in your home wish to get a dog? Who will be solely responsible for this new pet? I am guessing you since you are the one reading this. If this is the case make sure you are prepared. Giving a pet as a gift whether it is a new puppy, kitten, ferret, or bunny rabbit is never a good idea.

If you are a loving grandparent, aunt, or uncle who wishes to do so make sure you speak to the parents first, as they are most likely to end up taking care of this new addition to their family. Just remember just like children puppies grow up to be adults also. So when you buy your nine year old that new puppy finally, remember that the puppy will grow up with your child and when your child moves away to start their own family you very well may still have a dog living with you.

Dogs should not be left alone for long periods of time during a day. Going to work should be fine as long as you have a crate, but remember your dog had physical needs also. So make sure any extra curricular activities either include your dog or work around your dog. Dog walking and exercising is a serious need that most of us tend to forget about as a dog gets older. Do you have a good place to walk your dog? How about to play Frisbee or tug of war? Your dog like you and your children need exercise.

Can you afford a dog? Veterinarian bills, food, new shoes for you because you bought a puppy who likes to chew? These are all things that you need to take into account. Also do you have the time to spend on a new dog? Personal time with your new dog is always good. Get him used to you and vice versa. So you have decide that YES! You want a dog. This is great news. Did you think to check your local animal shelters? There are a lot of dogs that need to be saved and they usually come already vaccinated and either neutered or spayed.

This is always a bonus because then you do not have to pay for these services. The shelter can also steer you in the right direction, unlike a lot of pet stores, they will help you in choosing a dog best suited for you and your living situation. Maybe you have chosen to have a purebred dog. Make sure you use a reliable breeder and get all the paperwork necessary for showing your new dog at shows. You can always use your purebred dog for breeding also.

Do you choose a male or female dog? If you find your male dog is trying to dominate your household and he is unneutered, take him to your veterinarian and have him neutered. This should stop the aggressive behavior also. If your neighbors or friends have dogs this may help decide a sex for you new pup. Dog arguments have a way of spreading to the owners.

Source: <http://www.articlecircle.com>

### About the Author

Paul Duxbury writes extensively on Pet Care. You can read more of his articles at <http://www.my-dog.co.uk> and also at <http://www.pet-care-centre.com>. Download your Free Dog Training Report at <http://www.my-dog.co.uk/dogmasters.htm>