

# FINDING YOUR PERFECT DOG

Thinking about getting a  
NEW puppy or rescue dog but  
don't know where to  
begin?

See inside for  
ALL the ADVICE  
and HELP you  
need!



# DOGS AND YOUR LIFESTYLE

Owning a dog can be very rewarding, offering us lots of companionship and fun! However it is a long term commitment and can be very demanding. With our advice we hope to help you choose the right dog, one that will fit into your home and lifestyle, and live a happy and healthy life!

THERE ARE SOME KEY AREAS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE GETTING A DOG.

## ENVIRONMENT

Will your pet have access to:

- Score 1 No outside space?
- Score 2 Small outside space?
- Score 3 Good amount of outside space?

## HOW ACTIVE ARE YOU?

- Score 1 Not very active?
- Score 2 Do you enjoy time outdoors and would like to be more active?
- Score 3 Very active?

## TIME

- Score 0 Will you be out of the house most of the day and evenings?
- Score 2 Will you be out during the day but have lots of time outside working hours?
- Score 1 Could you afford a dog walker?
- Score 1 Could your dog come to work with you?
- Score 3 **Do you have lots of free time?**

## HOW MUCH ARE YOU WILLING TO SPEND ON YOUR DOG?

(food, medications, insurance):

- Score 1 £20-£80 per month
- Score 2 £80-£120 per month
- Score 3 £120+ per month

## BREED KNOWLEDGE - WHICH ARE YOU?

- Score 1 Never owned a dog, unsure of specific breed knowledge
- Score 2 Never owned a dog or had one growing up, but have done lots of research
- Score 3 Have done lots of research, experienced dog owner

Please note this is a rough guide to give you an idea of the type of dog to suit you, we understand there are varying factors and each owners circumstances will be different. Speak to your vet for more information.

IS YOUR HOME  
SUITABLE FOR  
A DOG?



**5 - 10** = Your lifestyle may not be appropriate at this time. We can discuss with you changes you could make to allow yourself more time to have a dog!

**10 - 14** = A smaller dog would be more appropriate, based mainly on estimated expenses and available space, larger breeds can be very costly in terms of food, medications and insurance!

**15** = Your lifestyle is appropriate for all size dogs!

# GETTING A NEW PUPPY 'VS' A RESCUE DOG

## GETTING A NEW PUPPY

After deciding on the breed of dog that will suit your lifestyle, find a registered breeder. The Kennel Club have an extensive list of registered breeders who will have ensured that the welfare of their dogs was the utmost priority throughout the breeding and rearing process, up to the time that their precious puppies are offered for sale.

The great news is that breeders are now being monitored much more closely and new laws have banned the sale of puppies by third parties, however, puppy farms are still in operation. A well-bred puppy will come from a comfortable, clean and warm environment where they will have had access to the correct diet for their age and breed, and the risk of disease transmission has been kept to a minimum. So if you have any concerns that this may not be the case with the breeder you are with, then walk away. By continuing the purchase in an attempt to rescue the puppy you are actually supporting the trade, and you may end up with a puppy that is ill, poorly socialised or has not been well looked after.

Please remember that puppy farms are not what you think, large scale puppy selling may occur from a terraced house which does not appear big and impersonal. So be sure to do your research, and NEVER buy from an internet advert.

Your new puppy should have been microchipped by the breeder and may have been vaccinated too. They will also have been treated for parasites such as worms and fleas.

Another benefit to finding a responsible breeder is that your puppy will have started a socialisation programme. This will mean they will have experienced stimuli such as the Hoover, the phone or strangers visiting the house. This helps to reduce the stress that comes with moving to a new home and encountering new experiences or going outside.

We recommend placing a deposit on your puppy and then returning to collect them at from 8 weeks of age, when they are old enough to go to their new home. This process will help you spot less scrupulous breeders who just want to sell the puppies on and move them to an owner as soon as possible to maximise the number of puppies they can sell.

## COST OF A NEW PUPPY

Depending on the breed/breeder, getting a new puppy can be expensive, and people are then reluctant to spend more on necessary veterinary treatment, insurance etc. Ask our team about our 365 Pet Care Plan - spreading the cost of preventative healthcare and saving you money!



## CHALLENGES TO CONSIDER WHEN GETTING A PUPPY

♥ They are hard work! Many people are not prepared for the amount of time you should invest in training and caring for your new puppy, we will do everything to help during this phase however a lot of commitment is required by new owners. During puppy hood you will experience difficulties such as chewing inappropriate items, toileting in the house and play biting

♥ Health concerns – purebred dogs also more commonly suffer from genetic conditions compared with mixed breeds

## GETTING A RESCUE DOG

People are often put off by the prospect of getting a rescue dog due to uncertain histories (an important consideration with young children), the challenge of re-socialising, or simply because they want to enjoy the 'puppy phase' of dog ownership. However, it is incredibly rewarding and there are many other benefits to rescuing a dog.

♥ You are giving them a second chance! They have ended up in a rescue centre through no fault of their own and with the right owner can become the loving, family dog that they deserve to be!



♥ Most rescue centres do a great job of preparing them for their new homes, by ensuring they are fully vet checked and vaccinated, have been neutered (if appropriate), microchipped and sometimes have been assessed by a behaviourist

♥ If they are a mixed breed, they are less likely to experience inherited health problems

♥ The initial costs of rescuing are far lower than obtaining a new puppy from a breeder

♥ Many pedigree dogs will find their way into shelters too but remember that every pedigree breed society will also have a rescue organisation for dogs of their breed to be rehomed through. So if you want a particular breed why not rescue one rather than buying a puppy of that breed



## THERE CAN BE CHALLENGES IN RESCUING A DOG:

♥ You will not always know their history, which means you might experience difficulties in the new home. However all reputable rescue centres will provide behavioural support to help you through any difficult periods

♥ You may not know what breed they originate from, this can be daunting as it may be difficult to predict their temperament, health, level of activity etc.

# USEFUL INFORMATION

## INSURANCE

We will always recommend getting pet insurance, it acts as a bit of 'safety net' for unexpected veterinary fees. Providing your new dog/puppy doesn't have any pre-existing conditions, they should receive an adequate level of cover, and we do also recommend getting '**COVER FOR LIFE**', which means your pet's condition will always be covered, should they suffer from a condition that requires life-long medication (some policies are only per year). Good insurance companies will also cover referrals to a qualified behaviourist, which will be of benefit whether you choose to get a puppy or a rescue dog!



## LEGISLATION TO BE AWARE OF

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 states that an owner is responsible for their animal's welfare, which includes:

1. Need for a suitable environment
2. Need for a suitable diet
3. Need to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
4. Any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals
5. Need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury or disease

## PUPPY CONTRACT

Developed by RSPCA and Animal Welfare Foundation (AWF) to help you avoid the problems that can arise from buying a puppy from an irresponsible breeder. Please go to [www.puppycontract.org.uk](http://www.puppycontract.org.uk) to download the contract.

### The Control of Dogs order 1992 states that:

"Every dog while in a highway or in a place of public resort shall wear a collar with the name and address of the owner inscribed on the collar or on a plate or badge attached to it."

The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2014 states that: **All dogs should be microchipped by the time they are 8 weeks old.**

This must be done by the breeder and by the time the puppy is 8 weeks old, it is the breeder's responsibility to microchip the puppy and it should be done between 6-8 weeks of age.

## COUNTRYSIDE RULES

To find out more about everyone's access rights and responsibilities in Scotland's outdoors visit [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)



BOOK A FREE NURSE APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS ANY OF THE BELOW POINTS WITH US IN MORE DEPTH:

## ENVIRONMENT

- 🐾 Will your dog match your lifestyle & activity?
- 🐾 Are you happy 'out in all weathers'?
- 🐾 Allergies (i.e. they might make you sneeze)
- 🐾 Holidays
- 🐾 Puppy or rescue
- 🐾 Costs to consider: vet costs, preventative healthcare, food, dog walkers/petcare, grooming & insurance
- 🐾 Dog food usually contains meat, are you comfortable preparing this?



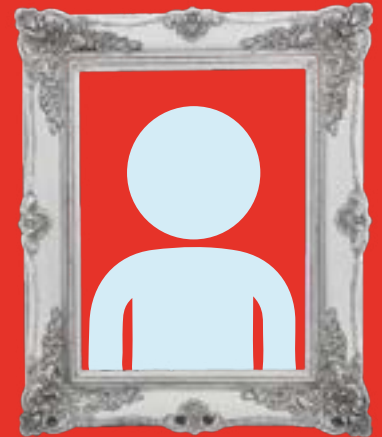
## DOG

- 🐾 Breed conditions and breeder research
- 🐾 Have you had any 'hands on experience' with the type of dog you are interested in?
- 🐾 Grooming needs
- 🐾 Nutrition and diet
- 🐾 Separation anxiety
- 🐾 Life span
- 🐾 Preventative healthcare



## YOU

- 🐾 Do you have other pets/children?
- 🐾 How much space do you have (interior and exterior) for your dog?
- 🐾 Preparing your home for your new dog
- 🐾 Are you OK about picking up poo and the fact that your dog will not be as house proud as you?



## DO YOUR RESEARCH

Make yourself aware of the common traits of the breed you have chosen, and equally as importantly, any congenital conditions they commonly suffer from. Look up and compare insurance policies, your budget may impact your breed choice if they are pre-disposed to specific conditions.

## PLAN AHEAD

Having a new dog will be a bit of a whirlwind! Make sure your home is set up to be safe and secure for your new addition. This might include the use of a crate, which should be used conservatively at the right times and should be a 'safe' place for the new dog/puppy to settle, however be aware that inappropriate use of a crate can lead to behavioural issues too. Remember that the new dog/puppy is being introduced to a new environment which can be scary and overwhelming for them. Make sure your garden is secure to prevent escapes! Baby gates are also a good idea to give them boundaries, to keep them safe and away from harm!



## DISINFECTANT

For when there are any accidents, as there will be a few!

## FOOD TOY

For mental stimulation and a distraction to being left alone.

## COLLAR AND LEAD

Vital for socialisation, give gentle exposure from a very early age; let your puppy walk around the house with the lead trailing (available in various sizes).

# NEW PUPPY CHECK LIST

Please use this helpful guide when you have decided on a breed, our aim is to help you find a responsible, knowledgeable breeder who cares about the health and welfare of the puppy and its mother.



## BREEDER DETAILS

Name	<input type="text"/>	Address	<input type="text"/>
Telephone	<input type="text"/>	Email	<input type="text"/>

## ABOUT YOUR PUPPY

- Date of birth    
2. Sex  Male  Female
- Breed
- Is the puppy registered?
- Will the puppy be microchipped?  Yes  No
- Is the puppy covered by the breeder's insurance policy?  Yes  No
- Was the puppy born by caesarean section?  Yes  No
- Age puppy will be weaned
- Will the puppy have had any vaccinations before you take ownership?  Yes  No
- Give any details of worming and flea treatments the puppy has received
- Diet being fed after weaning  Dry puppy food  Wet puppy food  Frozen/raw
- Breeder providing 5 days worth of food to new owner  Yes  No



# COMMON BREED PROBLEMS

**BRACHYCEPHALIC OBSTRUCTIVE AIRWAY SYNDROME (BOAS)** is the medical term related to various upper airway problems found in short-nosed, flat-faced dog breeds such as Pekingese, Pug, Bulldog, Boxer, Chihuahua and Shih Tzu.



**HIP AND ELBOW DYSPLASIA** is an abnormal formation of the socket joints that, in its more severe form, can eventually cause crippling lameness and painful arthritis. It commonly affects larger breeds of dogs, including Bulldogs, Mastiffs, American Staffordshire Terriers, St. Bernards, Retrievers, and Rottweilers. However, dogs of all breeds and all sizes are susceptible to this inherited condition, including some small breeds, such as Pugs and French Bulldogs.

**SYRINGOMYELIA (SM)** is an extremely serious condition, common in the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, in which fluid-filled cavities develop within the spinal cord near the brain. It is also known as “neck scratcher’s disease”, because one of its common signs is scratching in the area near the neck.



**ATOPIC DERMATITIS** or Atopy is a condition in which dogs have an inherited predisposition to allergic skin disease. This is due to a genetic cause and means their immune systems are over sensitive and overreact to certain allergy causing substances.








**ENTROPION** is a deformity of the eyelids, common in Shar Pei, such that the outer edge of the eyelid turns inwards resulting in the eyelashes, skin and fur of the outer surface of the eyelid constantly rubbing on the surface of the eye causing discomfort and pain.

PLEASE NOTE  
WHATEVER DOG YOU  
CHOOSE WE WILL BE  
DELIGHTED TO  
LOOK AFTER IT!

# DISCOVER OUR AMAZING VALUE PUPPY STARTER PACK!

GIVE THEM THE BEST POSSIBLE START IN LIFE!

HERE'S WHAT'S INCLUDED:

-  Full vaccination course
-  First flea and worm treatment
-  Full health check
-  Free microchip
-  5 weeks free insurance\*



