

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!



Advice. Checklist. **Puppy Packs**. Tips.

Choosing the right dog for your lifestyle

Puppies
are for LIFE,
not for
rehoming!

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 key areas to think about when deciding if getting a dog is right for you, and if so which breed:

Environment

Will your pet have access to:

- 🐾 No outside space? (1)
- 🐾 Small outside space? (2)
- 🐾 Good amount of outside space? (3)

How active are you?

- 🐾 Not very active (1)
- 🐾 Do you enjoy time outdoors and would like to be more active (2)
- 🐾 Very active (3)

How much are you willing to spend?

(food, medications, insurance)

- 🐾 £20 - £80 per month (1)
- 🐾 £80 - £120 per month (2)
- 🐾 £120+ per month (3)

Breed knowledge - which are you?

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

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.

Time

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



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 the breed of dog that will most suit your life-style, find a responsible breeder. Responsible breeders will have ensured that the needs and welfare of their puppies have been taken into account throughout the breeding and rearing process and up to the time their puppies are offered for sale, we would therefore suggest that your new puppy has come from such a caring environment.

Finding a responsible breeder is not as easy as it sounds as more and more puppies are being bred on a large scale, in so called puppy farms, or are being illegally imported from Eastern Europe and Ireland. If you have any concerns about the person offering a puppy for sale then walk away and look elsewhere as by continuing the purchase in an attempt to rescue the puppy you may propagate the trade as well as potentially buying a puppy that is ill, poorly socialised or has not been looked after well. Please remember that puppy farms are not what you may think, large scale puppy selling may occur from a terraced house which does not appear big and impersonal.

A well-bred puppy will have come from a comfortable, clean and warm environment where he or she 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.

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 key benefit to finding a responsible breeder is that your puppy will have started a socialisation programme. This will mean that your puppy will have experienced stimuli such as the Hoover, the phone or strangers visiting the house. This helps to reduce the inevitable 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 about 8 weeks of age or so, when they are old enough to go to their new forever 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.

Please use our checklist as a guide to be able to find a responsible breeder and to spot a poorly bred or imported puppy.

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 Pet Health Club and spread the cost of preventative healthcare and save money!

Challenges to consider when getting a puppy

- 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 will be pre-disposed to less 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

Many breeds suffer from serious health and welfare problems that can impact their quality of life and prove very expensive. Ask your vet for more information.

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 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

Puppy pack

You will have the opportunity to buy a bespoke puppy pack consisting of everything your pet will need. The team will explain all the items in the puppy pack and why they will help to make a happy and well behaved puppy!

Slow feeder and water dish

Will mentally stimulate the puppy and help in the reduction of naughty behaviours that are usually caused through boredom.

Poo bags & holder

Part of responsible pet ownership.

Vet bed

Perfect fit for the crate, it is the ultimate puppy sleeping surface, plus most puppies don't seem to chew it with any enthusiasm. It is washable, and very hard wearing.

Crate

This is great for training and giving your puppy a place of rest and solace.

Prices vary depending on the breed of dog



Disinfectant

If there are any accidents, as there will be a few, the disinfectant in the pack is ideal.

Food toy

For mental stimulation and a distraction to being left alone. It also helps to make a quick positive association between puppy and crate.

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).



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!

Discussion points

Book an appointment to discuss any of the below points with your vet in more depth.

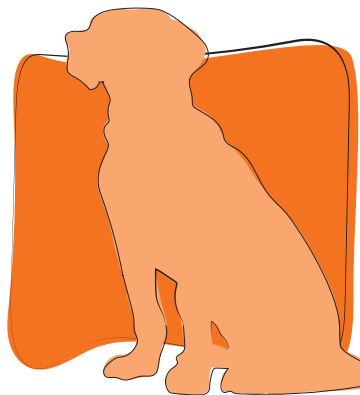
ENVIRONMENT

- 🐾 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?



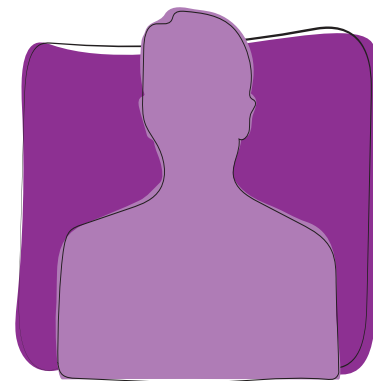
DOG

- 🐾 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?



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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 the puppy

1. Date of birth
2. Sex Male Female
3. Breed
4. Is the puppy registered?
5. Will the puppy be microchipped? Yes No
6. Is the puppy covered by the breeders insurance policy? Yes No
7. Was the puppy born by caesarean section? Yes No
8. Age puppy will be weaned
9. Will the puppy have had any vaccinations before you take ownership? Yes No

10. Give any details of worming and flea treatments the puppy has received

Product used	<input type="text"/>	Date given	<input type="text"/>
Product used	<input type="text"/>	Date given	<input type="text"/>

11. Diet being fed after weaning Dry puppy food Wet puppy food Frozen/raw

12. 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 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.

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Have you heard about our Pet Health Club for dogs, cats & rabbits?

Save money with a monthly discounted scheme covering:

- ✓ Vaccination Course or Booster
- ✓ Kennel Cough Vaccination
- ✓ 2nd Healthcheck at 6 months
- ✓ All year Worm Treatment
- ✓ All year Flea Treatment (Annual Flystrike for rabbits)
- ✓ Cost Price Food* (non prescription)
- ✓ Annual Urine Test*
- ✓ Nail Clipping*
- ✓ Microchip or £10 Voucher (one per plan)
- ✓ 50% off Retail Cost of First Bag of Food* (up to 4kg - one per plan)
- ✓ 25% off Royal Canin & Hills Prescription Food
- ✓ 10% off Dentistry & Pet Passports
- ✓ 10% off Pet Shop Sales & Geriatric Screenings

PLUS YOU'LL GET

20% OFF Selected Lifetime Care Medications and Neutering
100% OFF Direct Claims Administration Fee

The Pet Health Club is **NOT** an Insurance Policy



Pet Health Club




	MONTHLY PAYMENTS	AVERAGE SAVINGS YEAR 1
Rabbit	£7.80	£79
Cat	£12.50	£162
Small dog (under 10kg)	£12.50	£162
Medium dog (10-25kg)	£13.50	£167
Large dog (25-40kg)	£15.50	£231
Giant dog (over 40kg)	£20.00	£373

Please see savings guide for more details



www.myfamilyvets.co.uk

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