

Choosing a Family Dog

Handbook for bringing home the right dog



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How To Choose The Right Dog For Your Family

Choosing the right dog can be a challenge. In the end, your goal should be to find the dog that is just right for you and your family. Doing so will make sure that you have a friend and companion for life.



If you do not take the time to make an informed decision about which dog is right for you, it can make life difficult for you, and hard for the dog. In most cases, when families end up believing that a particular dog is not suited to them or their lifestyle, they surrender the dog to the nearest shelter. This can be avoided by just taking the time to some research before running out and bringing the new dog or puppy home.

How to Choose the Right Dog

There are many factors to consider when deciding on which dog you want to bring into your family. Some of the main things to consider are:

- age
- personality (temperament)
- breed
- history
- your living arrangements
- your lifestyle
- other family members

So, this might mean that you have to consider any other pets you may have, whether you are a frequent traveler, and if you have children.

You should also consult the other members of your family. Getting a dog is not something you should decide on your own. Although the dog should have a primary caregiver, all members of the family should be on board when it comes to having a dog, and providing her with love and attention.

Choose the Right Adult Dog With These Guidelines

A dog should...

- have a place in your current lifestyle
- be friendly around family and friends
- behave well around children (especially important if you have children of your own)
- be able to get along well with other pets (if you have any)
- be in general good health

Choose the Right Puppy With These Guidelines

A puppy should...

- come from a responsible breeder
- have healthy parents
- have siblings who are active
- have clear eyes
- come with proper records of all vaccinations and other health issues
- come from a clean facility

- come from a breeder with a health guarantee

It is up to you whether you decide to adopt an older dog, or buy a new puppy. However, you will want to make sure that they meet most, if not all, of the guidelines above.

This is certainly not an exhaustive list. It is meant to give you a starting point as you decide how to choose the right dog for you and your family.

If there are any other considerations that you would like to add, please add them in the comments below.

Should I Get A New Puppy

A new dog can be a wonderful companion and a great addition to a family that is prepared to take care of them.

Dogs are great at keeping you company and just being there for you. As I write this article, Misha is asleep, curled up right by my feet.



How comforting is that?

Earlier tonight, I was watching some television downstairs, and she curled up right next to me in the recliner enjoying the warmth of the fireplace. She is not much of a protector at thirteen pounds, but she does warn us when strangers come to the door. The point is, dogs are wonderful.

Earlier we talked about some of the factors you need to consider when you decide to buy a new puppy. However, another major decision remains to think about – should you get a new puppy or should you consider adopting an older dog.

Today we talk about getting a new puppy and next time we will continue with considering a grown dog.

Why Get A New Puppy

One advantage of bringing home a puppy is that, as long as you buy your puppy from a reputable breeder, you are generally certain that your puppy is healthy physically, emotionally, and mentally.

Another advantage is that your puppy will grow up with you. You will not have to deal with any prior issues such as abuse or neglect by previous owners. You are starting with a blank page, so to speak.

Also, you get to start training your puppy from a very early age. Training your dog is a very important part of dog ownership.

Puppies are usually energetic, entertaining, and adorable balls of joy. Both adults and children will agree that puppies are just plain fun to be around.

Additionally, puppies are great at adapting to a new environment and will usually settle in faster than an adult dog.

Why You May Not Want to Get a New Puppy

With a new puppy comes a great deal of responsibility, more so than a full grown dog perhaps. As they grow, puppies will change physically, but they may also change emotionally. Your puppy may grow up to act very differently than she did as a little baby.

Here is a short list of just little things to expect from your puppy:

- they can cause damage to furniture, shoes, socks, and other valuables when they are teething
- they are little balls of energy and may knock things over as they run around the house
- they need to be house broken which requires time, effort, and patience

Get A New Puppy – You Decide

Although most people see a puppy as cute and cuddly you need to realize that they come with responsibility. You are responsible for raising them to be well behaved adult dogs. So decide carefully.

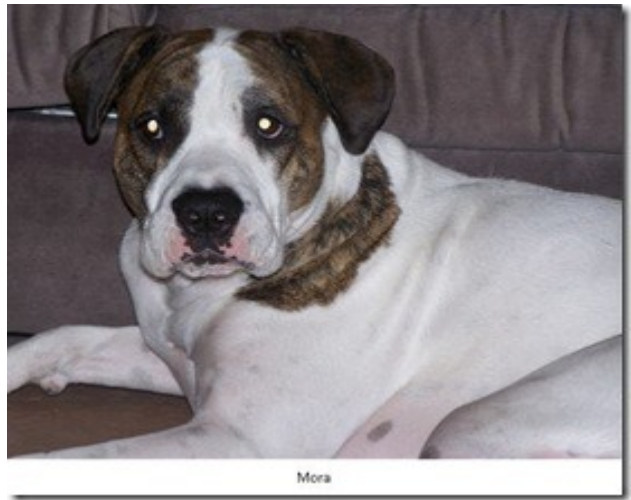
You should also know that puppies should be at least eight weeks old before you bring them home. Bringing a puppy home before they are fully weaned from their mother can be a disadvantage to the puppy.

Should I Get A Grown Dog

There are many reason why you may want to consider getting a grown dog over getting a new puppy.

Last time, we talked about some of the advantages and considerations when deciding if you should get a new puppy. So today, we talk about some of the joys an older dog can bring.

So here goes...



Getting A Grown Dog

You can tell almost immediately what type of personality and temperament that particular dog has. They pretty much have established behaviors that can help you decide if that dog will be a good fit with your family and lifestyle.

You will not give as much of your time and attention to an older dog as a young puppy would require.

You will not have to make as many trips to the vet. Remember, a young puppy will require all her shots during her first year.

Adult dogs will usually be housebroken already. They will also have passed through the teething and chewing stage. And unless, the grown dog has some behavior problems that need to be worked on, they will be less destructive than a new puppy.

An adult dog will not change physically and emotionally. What you see is pretty much what you are getting.

A grown dog can adjust to any other household pet you may have.

On the other hand, depending on the dog's background and history, it may take

a good deal of time and energy to make them feel comfortable and get used to their new owner.

Some Factors To Consider With A Grown Dog

When you meet any new dog that you want to consider for adoption, observe their behaviors as much as you can. Take note of any mood swings, little quirks, or bad habits. Ask for any information about their personality and temperament. And be sure to ask if there are any known behavioral issues that you should be aware of.

If possible, in fact, make it a point to get input from all family members. You want to make sure that your new dog has the highest chance of remaining with her new family.

Get a Grown Dog – You Decide

So we talked about why you may want to get a new puppy as well as why grown dogs may be an excellent choice. But in the end it is up to you to decide and choose the right dog for your family.

Everyone adores a cute little puppy, but they can be a lot of work when you first get them home and as they grow up. And the truth is, most people will choose a young puppy over an adult dog. But that is the way the world works. Just make sure that you are committed to providing that new puppy with a home, with care, and with love for the rest of its life.

And if you can find it in your heart to adopt an older dog, then that is a wonderful act of kindness and I tip my hat to you. Because a grown dog needs a home too.

So You Want To Buy A New Puppy

Yes, it is great to want to buy a new puppy. After all it is something many children and adults dream about. Buying a puppy can be a great addition to your household. In some ways, it can even teach children responsibility, although children should not be the primary care giver for the new puppy. However, there are some things you will want to consider before bringing your new puppy home.



Factors To Consider To Buy A New Puppy

Children in the Family

No matter what breed of puppy you end up deciding on, if you have children you need to think about the interaction between the child and the puppy. Especially if you have young children, you will need to keep an eye on them to prevent both child and puppy from hurting each other.

You want to watch out for roughhousing, pulling, biting, and any other potential injuries.

For this reason, many trainers and other dog experts recommend that you avoid toy breeds if you have toddlers at home. This will avoid the risk of the tiny puppy being squeezed, dropped, or stepped on.

Time and Attention

Puppies require a great deal of supervision, interaction, and regular training. These things are important if you want to have a well socialized puppy who will grow up to be a well behaved dog.

Keep in mind that although it will be a bit easier when they grow up, even adult dogs need love and attention.

Training

Puppies will need to be trained in different areas as they get older. One of the first things will be house training. However, it is highly recommended that you at least provide some sort of basic obedience training for your puppy.

If you have children, it is also a good idea to them participate in training sessions. This will teach them the proper way to interact with the puppy.

Cost

Although you will need to buy certain new puppy supplies, spending does not end when you buy a new puppy. In fact, even if you try to calculate all the costs of raising a puppy there will be unexpected expenses throughout her life.

Some of the expenses include:

- food
- toys
- vet visits
- vaccinations
- dog training

Be prepared to spend a lot of money over the lifetime of your dog because the costs can really add up.

Size

You need to think about how big your puppy will get when she grows up. To state the obvious, if you get a puppy from a large dog breed, she will grow up to be a large dog.

If you have small children a large dog can be quite intimidating.

To avoid this, be sure to do proper research about different dog breeds before

deciding on a particular breed.

Living Arrangements

Your puppy may only require a small living area right now. However, there needs may change depending on how large they grow. If you have plans to get a large dog then make sure you will be able to provide a large area for them to live in.

Be sure to consider your available space when deciding to buy a new puppy.

Exercise

Another consideration is that your dog will need exercise. Some dogs require more exercise than others. So consider your activity level when thinking about getting a new puppy.

The important thing is to be honest with yourself and get a dog that suits your lifestyle.

Conclusion

Although these may seem like a lot of things to consider when you buy a new puppy, owning a dog can be incredibly rewarding. This is especially true if this is going to be your first puppy. Just make sure to think about it carefully and choose a family dog based on research and careful consideration. Doing so will mean a lifetime of love and joy for both you and your dog.

Choosing Puppies To Suit Your Living Conditions

An important thing to keep in mind when choosing puppies, or any dog, is the living space you have available. You need to be certain that your living arrangements will be able to accommodate the type of puppy or dog you select.



If you are adopting an older dog then you will already be certain of her size. But if you are buying a puppy then you not only have to consider where you live now, but also where you think you will be living in the future.

So, are you living in an apartment or a condo? Or are you living in a house? Do you live in a busy city, or do you live in the country with lots of space for your dog to run free?

Consider These When Choosing Puppies

- Size restrictions imposed by your landlord or by your homeowner's association.
- Consider the amount of barking that is typically associated with a particular breed you are considering, and think about how close you live to neighbors.
- Ask yourself if your lifestyle suits the activity level of your dog and if you will have the time to provide her with sufficient exercise.

A Common Misconception When Choosing Puppies

One mistake that potential dog owners often make is to think that only small dogs are suitable to living in an apartment, and that large dogs require a house in the country to be happy.

Side note: Our [dog breed profiles](#) list the recommended living conditions for a particular breed in the Quick Stats section.

The reality is that in many cases you do not have to own a large backyard to own a large dog, and some small dogs are not very good at life in an apartment. On the contrary, many large dogs do well in an apartment, and some small dogs are better off living in the country with lots of space to run, explore, and dig.

For example, if you are considering rescuing a retired Greyhound, you do not have to live in the country or own a huge backyard to own this wonderful dog. The Greyhound dog breed is a sprinter, not a long distance runner. And although she loves to jog with her owner, she would be just as happy with a good fifteen to twenty minute brisk walk in the morning and at night. Greyhounds are not loud barkers. This makes them ideal for living in an apartment or a condo.

The main concern for people living in an apartment or condo is their ability to take their dogs up and down any stairs if the dog cannot make it on her own. This is usually due to old age or an injury.

On the other hand, you may think that most small terriers would be perfect for apartment life. However, some terriers, like the Jack Russell Terrier, can bark almost none stop. This may not sit too well with the neighbors in your apartment building.

Many small breeds bark so much, and have such high energy levels, that they are not ideal for living in an apartment.

So when choosing puppies, or a grown dog for that matter, it is important to consider the noise level of the breed, and how much exercise you will be able to give them, and not just how big they will get.

Male or Female Dogs – Which One Should You Choose

When deciding between male or female dogs, my personal preference has always been biased towards female dogs. Perhaps it has something to do with not having a daughter and wanting a little girl – I don't know. I think that's why I almost always refer to dogs as "her" and "she". Please just indulge me when that happens – no offense to all the male dogs out there.



In the end, though, it shouldn't matter really. After all if you care more about a dog's personality, character, and how the dog will fit into your lifestyle, then gender should be irrelevant. If you are buying a new puppy or getting a grown dog your decision will be mostly based on how the puppy or dog behaves and acts towards you, your family, and other people.

However, there are definite differences, and you can choose whether male or female dogs will suit you best.

Female Dogs

In general...

- female dogs are smaller in size
- they are often believed to be more intelligent – this is debatable, but in a household with both male and female dogs, the females tend to run the show
- they tend to be more independent
- they tend to be more mature as well

- a bit more aloof

Male Dogs

Generally speaking...

- males dogs are very affectionate
- they can be less complicated than female dogs
- can have problems if not neutered
- can be territorial over property
- tend to display territorial urination

Male or Female Dogs – The Truth

The truth is that these short lists are really just generalizations, and for every bullet point there is probably a male and a female dog that can be described that way. There are however, some additional observations that can be addressed.

For example, intact males can develop behaviors based on sexual interest. Stories of dogs jumping or climbing over a fence just to get to a neighborhood female who is in heat is not unheard of. Also, intact males are more likely to mark the house with their urine. Having your dog neutered can help in alleviating these behaviors.

As with male dogs, females can also be distracted and exhibit certain behaviors associated with sexual interest if they are not spayed. However, it tends to be less of a problem since females only come into a heat cycle once or twice a year. Again, spaying can help with some of these issues.

We will discuss the benefits and criticisms of spaying and neutering later on.

As another example, many female dogs seem to take to training more easily than their male friends. They can be very focused and intent at getting it right.

In classes with both male and female dogs, the females seem to learn faster in the beginning. The males usually catch up, and some will even excel, but the girls usually get ahead to start.

In the end, both male or female dogs make excellent pets. Every dog is different no matter what their gender. There is nothing wrong with having a preference for one over the other, but if you are not sure which one would be better for your family, here is a bit of advice – go with your heart. Do your research so you can make an informed decision about what type of dog would be best suited to you and your family and then forget about what sex the dog is.

As I wrote this article, I couldn't help but think that many of these things are what my wife says makes women better than men, more intelligence, more mature, you get the picture 😊 . I said, "those are just generalizations based on some observations". But seriously, what do you think? Do you have a preference for male or female dogs?

Large Family Dog – Should You Get One

Several of the most popular dog breeds are actually large dogs. Consider the Golden Retriever, the Labrador Retriever, the German Shepherd, and the Boxer – all large dogs. Even the Rottweiler is pretty popular, and guess what, a large dog.

But a large family dog is not for everyone. There are some factors that you need to consider when deciding if a large dog breed is a good fit for your family.



Some Pluses For The Large Family Dog

In general, large breed puppies cost less than small and cute little toy breed puppies. I am not quite certain of the reasons behind this, but that is the way it is.

Puppies from the large breeds are not as delicate as their smaller cousins. They are usually ready to go to their new homes around eight weeks old. Puppies from the toy breeds and most small breeds may need to wait until they are at least twelve weeks old before their new families can take them home.

Because of their size, many large breed puppies make excellent family dogs. They can tolerate more roughhousing without getting hurt too easily. Of course, that is not to say that children should be allowed to be left alone with the dog, especially when they are playing. Rough playing can quickly get out of hand without proper supervision.

However, for children who understand how to interact with a dog, a large family dog can be a great companion.

Many times, a small dog breed may not be a good choice for young children since the kids can unintentionally hurt the puppies.

Despite their intimidating size, many large dogs are very gentle and have a quiet, laid-back personality. Depending on the breed, some large dogs don't require a whole lot of exercise. In fact, there are many small dog breeds who require a great deal more exercise than some of the larger dogs. There are many large dogs who are contented to simply nap all day.

Many people mistakenly believe that to own a large dog you must have a large backyard. This is not always the case.

One mistake that potential dog owners often make is to think that only small dogs are suitable to living in an apartment, and that large dogs require a house in the country to be happy. [Choosing Puppies](#)

And finally, this may not be for everyone, but if you are looking for a watchdog, or a protector, you will want to choose a large dog breed. After all, face it, most dogs no matter their size, will alert you to an intruder. But realistically, people will respect a quiet Rottweiler much more than they would a yapping Yorkie.

Some Drawbacks Of The Large Family Dog

On the other hand, there are some drawbacks to owning a large dog. First of all, you should expect to spend more money on a large dog. They eat a lot more so you will spend more money on food. Their routine health care is usually more costly as well.

If you use heartworm medication and flea treatment on your dog, these cost more for larger dogs too.

Other things cost more.

Dog crates for large dogs are more expensive. If you plan on taking your dog on an airplane you will pay more for a larger dog.

But perhaps the biggest drawback of having a large family dog is their shorter lifespan. Now, this is a generalization because there are many factors affecting

the [average life expectancy of a dog](#). In general, however, a toy breed dog or a small dog breed may live up to about fifteen years. Large dog breeds have a typical lifespan of about ten to fourteen years.

In the end, it really comes down to what kind of dog you feel would be most suitable to your lifestyle. If you are considering a large family dog, there are many great reasons why you should get one. The most important thing to remember is to do your research to make sure you can provide your dog with the love and care she deserves for the rest of her life.

Mixed Breed Dogs or A Purebred Puppy

There are generally two categories of dogs, the purebred dog and mixed breed dogs (also known as the mutt). The only true difference between the two is that the purebred dog came from a long line of dogs from the same breed. On the other hand, the mixed breed dog came from a cross of two or more different dog breeds.



All the dogs I had growing up were mutts. They held no pedigrees, no registration papers, but they were my dogs and they held a special place in my heart.

Mixed Breed Dogs – Healthier or Smarter?

Whether the mixed breed dog is healthier or more intelligent than their purebred cousins is certainly up for debate. But the mutt definitely suffers her share of illnesses and diseases that are common among all dogs.

However, there are some who claim that mixed breed dogs are generally healthier. The belief is that when dog breeds are mixed or crossed, their offspring will be less likely to exhibit extreme characteristics. For example, extreme characteristics such as the snub nose of an English Bulldog, or the long, narrow heads and bulging eyes of some other dog breeds, are lessened in mixed breed offspring.

Others point out that when you are crossing two purebred dogs, the offspring has the possibility of developing any characteristics, conditions, or disease that is common to either parent.

According to [Wikipedia](#), the theory of hybrid vigor suggests that as a group, dogs of varied ancestry will be healthier than their purebred counterparts.

Mixed Breed Dogs Are One Of A Kind

There are some people whose preference is to own a purebred dog, and there is nothing wrong with that. However, for those who just love their family mutt, remember that your dog is one of kind 😊 . Even from the same litter, many of the pups will look differently since they can inherit characteristics from any of the breeds they are mixed with.

I think that makes a mixed breed dog truly special and unique.

Another thing to consider is that there are so many excellent mutts or mixed breed dogs just waiting for a home at your local animal shelter. They will love you no less than a purebred would, I promise.

So, does it really matter? I think not.

As always, it comes down to doing your research and making sure that whatever dog you decide on you are prepared to love them, care for them, train them, for the duration of their lifetime.

Purebred Puppies And Their Oh So High Price Tags

The price you end up paying for purebred puppies depends on several factors. One of the main factors is basic Economics 101 – supply and demand. If you are looking to purchase a very popular dog breed then chances are that you will pay a lot for your new puppy.



The price to get a new puppy can also vary depending on where you live, and what time of the year you are looking for a new puppy. If you are shopping for a new dog during the holiday season, the price can actually be higher than purchasing a dog at other times of the year – because there is an increase in demand around the holidays.

It will also depend on whether you are getting a pet quality pup or a show quality dog. The price difference can be as much as \$500 for an eight week old pet quality puppy, to around \$3000 for a show dog prospect of the same breed. The higher price tag is usually because that puppy came from a line of pedigree dogs and probably has a history of champions as well.

If you are considering a more mature puppy, about eight months to a year old, then the price can be significantly higher than \$3000. Of course, these figures are for illustration only to show the huge difference between pets and show dogs – at least when it comes to price.

Are Smaller Purebred Puppies Less Expensive?

The price of a puppy really has nothing to do with its size. Many small breeds and toy breeds are quite expensive, usually because they are popular and in high demand. In many cases, because a breed is so popular, you have to put your name on a waiting list to reserve a puppy. Sometimes, a breeder has sold

all their puppies before the litter is even born.

What About Male Versus Female Purebred Puppies?

In general, female puppies are less expensive than their male siblings. Unless she exhibits the potential to be a great show dog – then sorry brothers 😊 . This is because such a female puppy would be used as foundation stock for future breeding.

Many people mistakenly stay away from female dogs because they feel that they would have to deal with potential of caring for a litter of new born puppies. Growing up, that is the way my parents felt about dogs. As I grew older and started doing my own research, I realized this was simply not the case.

Since I advocate spaying and neutering as a part of responsible dog ownership, this is not a problem at all. So all my dogs have been females. As far as being good pets and companions, there is really no difference between male or female dogs.

Beware of Unscrupulous Breeders of Purebred Puppies

No matter what business you think of, there will always be people who are in it only to make money. Nothing else matters, and they will make money at all costs. The world of dog breeding is no different. These are the people you want to stay away from.

In deciding which type of puppy you want to purchase, take your time and do your research. Find a reputable breeder, and even then, do not rush and buy the first puppy you fall in love with. Remember, you are buying a dog who will hopefully spend the rest of her life with you.

And please do not forget about the mixed breed dogs out there. Especially those in shelters, just waiting for someone to take them home and love them.

There is nothing wrong with purebred puppies, if you are getting one for all the right reasons. But if adopting a mutt is in your future, hey, you will be saving some nice change 😊 .

Raising Two Puppies and Why You May Want To Rethink That

You have done all your research, have decided on which dog is right for your family, and now you are thinking what if your new puppy feels all alone. So your mind starts working, and you begin to ask yourself, "how hard can it be raising two puppies?" Perhaps I should get a brother or a sister to keep each other company.



So is it a good idea to try and bring home two puppies at once, even if they are from the same litter? Well there are several factors to consider.

For starters, having just one dog is a huge responsibility. Throw a young puppy into the mix and you have your work cut out for you. Puppies need a lot of attention, time, effort, love, potty breaks, sleepless nights – well, you get the picture. And that's just one 😊 . Two puppies at the same time?

Raising Two Puppies May Result in a Strong Bond

Something else to think about, when two dogs or puppies are raised together, they may bond closer to each other than how they would bond to their human families. Especially if they are puppies from the same litter. Being too closely bonded to a sibling can mean that they end up paying closer attention to each other than they do to you.

This may not be that big of a deal, but sometimes it affects how easily training may be. Consider what would happen when you are trying to teach them basic commands and house rules. It can be a lot harder and stressful on both you and them, because their attention is divided. Of course a solution would be to keep them apart, then train them when they are separated 😊 .

Raising Two Puppies At The Same Time May Result In Fights

As the pups grow older, they will begin to establish their roles with each other. Because they are growing and learning, the puppies have a natural tendency to fight and compete. There are many situations where they may feel the need to compete:

- getting more attention
- at feeding time
- over their toys

If not corrected, one of the puppies may end up hurting its littermate. One puppy will usually establish dominance over the other, and the submissive one may develop anxiety issues as she grows older. Or they may develop aggression issues, which can cause a whole other set of problems.

These issues are usually worse if both are puppies from the same sex.

A Plus For Two Puppies At The Same Time

One positive side effect of having two pups from the same litter – they can keep each other company and play with one another. However, as you have seen, the potential problems may outweigh this one benefit.

If you have your heart set on having two dogs, then be patient.

Get one first.

Raise her.

Train her.

Then when she is settled, get a new puppy or consider a grown dog. I think this is a far better solution than raising two puppies at once.

Final Considerations

Remember that dogs and puppies do not experience the same emotional bond that we feel as humans. So a dog can be blissfully happy growing up alone without ever seeing a brother or sister again. So when you hear someone say that they want, or got, two puppies because they didn't want to separate them, know this belief is based on wrong assumptions. Rather than be a positive for both pups, it can lead to a rather difficult situation.

If you must raise two puppies at once then please be certain that you have the will and the resources necessary for raising two puppies.

Dogs For Seniors – Which Ones You Should Choose

Just about everyone who owns a dog can tell you about the benefits of dog ownership. Many people own dogs all their lives. Just because we get older and things change doesn't mean seniors should be denied the opportunity to share their lives and their love with dogs.

So, dogs for seniors? Yes!

As it is, there are studies to show that owning a dog as a pet can actually improve the health and overall wellbeing of seniors. There are many nursing homes, and other senior care facilities that welcome animal visitors, such as pet therapists. There are even facilities that allow their residents to have a dog.



However, it is important for seniors to acknowledge their limitations when it comes to dog ownership. For example, it is usually a challenge for an older person to handle a giant dog breed, or one that requires a lot of grooming care. It may also be difficult to provide sufficient exercise for a dog with high levels of energy. It may be hard for an older person to carry a large dog if there is a need to do so.

For these reasons, factors like size and temperament should be considered when a senior person is thinking about getting a dog. In many cases, a senior should also consider getting a grown dog as opposed to buying a new puppy.

Not to say that a large family dog cannot be one of the good dogs for seniors, but small dogs usually make great pets for older people. Small dogs with shorter coats usually require less grooming maintenance and can be easier to handle than a large dog. Small dogs can also make an excellent lapdog.

Great Dogs For Seniors

- Boston Terrier
- Chihuahua
- Cocker Spaniel
- Pomeranian
- Pug
- Schnauzer
- Scottish Terrier
- Shih Tzu
- Toy Poodle
- Yorkshire Terrier

These are just a few of the breeds that generally make good dogs for seniors.

Remember that every dog is an individual and that these are only generalizations. For example, you may meet a Cocker Spaniel who seems to have boundless energy, or a shy Pomeranian. If you are interested in any of these particular dog breeds then try to meet the dog you are interested in, in person.

Observe the dog's personality and decide if you think it would fit in with your own personality. Consider your own circumstances and decide if she would fit in with your lifestyle.

If you love dogs, you can be certain that there is one waiting for you out there. And don't let the fact that you may be older stop you from sharing your life with a wonderful dog.

A List of Dog Breeds To Suit Your Lifestyle

A List of Dog Breeds That Are Great With Children

If you have children in your family, you will want to make sure that you get a dog that gets along with them. These dogs are known to love children:

- [Beagle](#)
- [Basset Hound](#)
- Labrador Retriever
- Golden Retriever
- Poodle



Dog Breeds That Require Less Grooming

All dogs need to be groomed. Their coats need to be brushed, their nails need to be trimmed, teeth brushed, and they all need an occasional bath. But in general, these dogs are considered low maintenance when it comes to grooming:

- [Affenpinscher](#)
- Boston Terrier
- Chihuahua
- French Bulldog
- Italian Greyhound
- Pug

A List of Great Lapdogs

If you are looking for a dog that loves to cuddle, and be snuggled, here are a few to consider:

- Dachshund

- Lhasa Apso
- Maltese
- Miniature Schnauzer
- Shih Tzu

Energetic Dogs

You are an athletic person and are looking for a dog who can join you for a hike on the trail or a long distance jog. Consider these breeds:

- [Australian Shepherd](#)
- [Border Collie](#)
- Jack Russell Terrier
- English Springer Spaniel
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier

A List of Athletic Dogs

These dogs are considered active, agile, vigorous, and strong:

- [Australian Cattle Dog](#)
- Border Collie
- Brittany Spaniels
- German Shepherds
- Greyhound

A List of Dog Breeds Who Tend To Be Obedient Dogs

If you are looking for a dog who listens, and is willing to please, check out these breeds:

- Border Collie
- Doberman Pinscher
- German Shepherd
- Rottweiler
- Shetland Sheepdog

New Puppy Supplies To Make Your Puppy Feel At Home

Getting a new puppy or dog can be quite an exciting time. However, you should be prepared for bringing home a new pet. Below are some of the new puppy supplies you will need to make her transition to a new home go a little easier.



New Puppy Supplies

If you want to go straight to buying the supplies for your new puppy check out [Cherrybrook](http://dogcarejourney.com/cherrybrook) at <http://dogcarejourney.com/cherrybrook>.

1. Puppy or Dog Food

At the top of the supply list is your [puppy's food](#). Puppies can have a delicate digestive system, and suddenly switching their food can cause them to have an upset stomach. Talk to someone who is familiar with the type and brand of food that your new puppy has been eating. As much as possible, stick to this diet for the first few days, especially as your puppy adjust to so many other changes in her life at this point.

You can always go through a slow switch to change her food later on. If your little one has been doing well on her current diet and food, there is really no reason to change her food, unless you have a personal preference for some other brand of food. However, if your puppy is experiencing problems like diarrhea, a dull coat, or other issues that could be caused by a poor diet, then you may want to slowly change her food.

A visit to the vet is one of the first things you should do anyway, so your vet will be able to help you decide on a [quality dog food](#) for your dog.

2. Supplies for Feeding Time

Your new four-legged friend will need [bowls, dishes, or pans](#) for food and water.

[Stainless steel pans](#) are a good choice. They are easy to clean, but they do have a disadvantage – they tend to make a lot of noise as they are knocked around. You can get the stainless steel dish with a weighted bottom, or a rubber bottom to prevent the dish from being moved around too easily.

[Ceramic dishes](#) are also a good choice. Make sure that they are dishwasher safe if you plan on washing your dog dishes in the dishwasher.

Try to stay away from plastic bowls. Many dogs can have an allergic reaction to the plastic. They develop bumps and pimples on their muzzles. The plastic bowls can also lead to a condition called "snow nose" – your dog's nose turns pink instead of dark.

When selecting a bowl for your dog, it is best to choose an appropriate size for your puppy or dog. If you choose a bowl that is too large for your dog, she may have trouble reaching food at the bottom. If your dog has long ears, get a deep bowl with a smaller opening at the top. This will help to prevent your dog's ears from getting into her food.

3. Collar and Leash

Even a young puppy needs a [collar and a leash](#).

There are many different types of collars to choose from, not to mention an almost endless variety of colors and styles. Some collars are intended for training your dog and are not recommended for young puppies.

A regular flat buckle collar is an appropriate collar for a young puppy. These collars are also good for taking your dog on a walk, or a trip to the vet.

[Nylon collars](#) or [leather collars](#) are also good choices. However, these tend to be more expensive, and your puppy will grow. You will have to replace her collar several times before she becomes an adult dog. For this reason, you may not want to invest in an expensive collar right away.

When fitting your puppy's collar, make sure it fits around her neck, allowing you to slip two fingers between your puppy's neck and the collar. Less than two fingers and the collar is too tight, which can choke the puppy. A loose collar can be dangerous too. If the collar is too loose the puppy can slip out – not a good thing if you are walking her on a busy street.

You can get a leash to match the dog collar if you like. A six-foot leash is considered a good length for walking your dog. Of course you will want to keep your puppy much closer to you than six-feet.

4. Toys and Chews

All puppies need toys and safe things for chewing. If you don't provide her with sufficient and appropriate toys and chews she will find other things to chew on – think your stuff 😊 . Your little friend is less likely to chew on your shoes, furniture, remotes, the carpet, if you provide her with a good selection of toys and chews. So toys and chews should be considered an important part of your new puppy supplies list.

There are many great toys for dogs and puppies. You can choose from simple stuff toys to fairly complex interactive toys.

Chews come in all types, shapes, and flavors. There are:

- [rope toys](#)
- [Nylabones](#)
- [Kongs](#) – which can be stuffed with treats
- and others

Just be sure to pick a size and age appropriate toy or chew.

5. Place to Sleep

Your new puppy will also need somewhere to sleep. No matter where you decide your puppy will sleep, she needs a place of her own where she can find some

quiet time. When your house becomes busy and noisy, she needs a place to retreat for a nap.

Consider getting a [crate](#) for your puppy. Crate training is a great idea, but we will cover that in depth later on.

You may also want to consider a [dog bed](#). This is not an essential item, but Misha has three different beds around the house. That way we don't have to be moving her bed from room to room. And believe me, she uses all three . So you may want to think about getting at least one to start with.

These are the basic supplies that you need when bringing home your new puppy. I recommend you at least get her food, dishes, a crate, and a bed before she gets home. That way you can focus your attention on her the first day. A little later you can get her collar, the leash, and some toys.

Where To Get New Puppy Supplies

For eco-friendly pet products check out [pawluxury](#).

For premium pet supplies go to [Cherrybrook](#).

And for almost any dog supplies you can think of, go to [PetSmart](#).

Best,

Omar Reyes

p.s. If you would rather buy your supplies from your local pet store, I put together a short new puppy supply list for your convenience. You can print it off and take it with you so you do not forget anything . All you have to do is [click here!](#)

If you enjoyed this report you will also enjoy my *Dog Care Handbook* – you can get it at <http://dogcarejourney.com/dog-care-tips/>.