



**Want the Right Dog....Ask the Right Questions  
Considerations for a successful family dog  
adoption.**

## **Guide Book**

### **Do we all want a dog?**

If the whole family isn't on board, reconsider. If you have other animals in the home, how well do you feel they would do with another furry family member.

### **When is the right time to bring home our dog or puppy?**

Dogs and puppies will take time out of your day.

Do you have a busy schedule? The dog or puppy will need a period of adjustment and quiet, choose a time when this can happen. It may be best to wait until life slows down a bit.

Dogs and puppies who are left on their own a lot develop unpleasant behaviors in order to entertain themselves.

The time of year is important. Winter will be cold when you are standing alongside your dog or puppy in your pajamas at 2am waiting for them to go potty.

## **Do I have time to train this dog?**

Dogs need quality force free training by a certified experienced professional. Training is as important as quality veterinary care and a good healthy diet to a dog's overall well being. Training your dog will go on for the dog's lifetime, it isn't just a 6wk class and you're done.

Please click on the ASVAB link below for a detailed explanation of force free positive reinforcement dog training.

[AVSAB-Humane-Dog-Training-Position-Statement-2021.pdf](#)

## **Who will be responsible for our dog's care?**

If you have a family with children and they are expected to help, be sure this is discussed and duties written down before you bring home a dog or puppy.

## **Did we make a list of all the traits we want, don't want, or are willing to work with in our dog or puppy. Do we all agree?**

It is important to the success of the dog or puppy for everyone to have a clear understanding of the kind of traits your new dog should possess.

For example: Retrieving dogs may be more likely to put anything they find in their mouths, they may, in general, be more mouthy and may take longer to mature.

Herding dogs may be more likely to nip at moving objects which include children, other pets, cars, bicycles, etc. Their need for order may cause them to have anxious tendencies and behaviors.

Guarding dogs may be less welcoming of people in homes or out on walks, may be more vigilant and aroused while riding in a car. If you have a busy home or like to entertain, you may need to reconsider this choice.

All genetic groups will have a range as to how and at what point their natural behaviors driven by their genetics will emerge. Above are just some

examples of the genetic traits that have been created by humans into our dogs.

For a deeper understanding of how genetics can shape a dog's behavior, click on the link below to purchase "Meet Your Dog". This book, developed by Kim Brophey, Applied Ethologist, LFDM, CDBC addresses the 4 pillars, our dog's LEGS, that we need to consider regarding our dog's learning, environment, genetics, and individual self.

[Meet Your Dog: The Game-Changing Guide to Understanding Your Dog's Behavior \(Dog Training Book, Dog Breed Behavior Book\): Brophey, Kim, Hewitt, Jason, Coppinger, Raymond: 9781452148991: Amazon.com: Books](#)

## **Do we want a puppy or an adult dog?**

Both have pro's and con's.

A puppy, if from a reputable and experienced breeder can start you off on the right paw but you will need to be educated on puppy training and development and be prepared for all the normal and natural puppy behaviors that come along with that furry baby bundle. You will need to be proactive and vigilant to assure proper training, socialization, and the fear free guidance that will help your puppy grow to be a well behaved adult dog. Puppies are a lot of work, time, energy, and patience.

An adult dog, if from a reputable and experienced shelter or rescue may already be trained on basic manners. The shelter or rescue will be able to let you know about the dog's personality and traits and guide you towards the best adult dog for your family. It will still take work, time, energy, and patience to incorporate your new adult dog into your family but some of the challenges of adopting a puppy are not there. Plus, you have the added honor of giving a dog a new and loving home.

But some adult dogs can come with behavioral baggage from their previous living conditions that may need extra training and patience. A reputable and experienced shelter or rescue will disclose this information to you and be able to give you good training and support resources and be available for questions and advice.

Click on the link below for a detailed explanation of what to look for in a reputable breeder.

[handcard 9.41.44 AM \(humanesociety.org\)](#)

Click on the link below for a detailed explanation of what to look for in a reputable shelter or rescue.

[How to Find a Reputable Animal Rescue - Animal Rescue Professionals Association](#)

### **How experienced am I with raising a dog?**

It's important to know your limitations and your family's. Choose the dog or puppy that will be a good fit for your experience level.

### **Do we have the room for a dog?**

The size of your home should be taken into consideration when choosing the size and energy level of your dog or puppy. Depending on the dog or puppy, are you willing to put up with the fur and other messes around the house that a dog or puppy will make.

### **Is our house set up for the kind of dog or puppy you want?**

If you are adopting an older dog, do you have a lot of stairs that may make it difficult for an older dog to get around your home? If you are adopting a puppy, how will you contain a puppy in an open concept home, for example.

### **Do we have a fence or a way to keep a dog or puppy safe when they are outside with us?**

For your dog's protection and safety a regular fence (NOT an electronic fence), a lunge line or leash should always be used. And you will need to be outside with your dog or puppy at all times if you do not have a regular fence.

Click on the link below to read about the dangers of using electric fence containment.

[Why We Don't Recommend Electric Fences \(Shock Collars\) - Whole Dog Journal \(whole-dog-journal.com\)](http://whole-dog-journal.com)

### **Do we feel financially comfortable with the additional cost of adopting a dog?**

Dogs are expensive. Do you have enough money to pay for quality low fear veterinary services (this includes a visit to the emergency room if needed), dog sitters, dog walkers, groomers, quality dog food and toys, quality dog daycare run by certified and educated professionals, dog training services run by certified and experienced Force Free Dog Trainers.

### **Do we have access to the resources we need for our dog?**

All the resources should be easy to get to. If not, some of your dogs' basic needs may not be met.

### **Are we ready for a commitment of an average of 10 to 14 yrs?**

On average dogs live 10 to 14 yrs. Where will your family be in that time? Will you be adding to the family? Will you be moving? It's hard to predict much of this but bringing a dog in to your home means a commitment to care for them no matter what the circumstance. They are with you for their lifetime.

### **Are there breed restrictions in our city?**

It is important to know if your city has any restrictions for breeds or the number of dogs before you adopt.

### **Are there breed restrictions with our insurance?**

Some insurance companies have breed or number of dogs owned restrictions. Check with your insurance company before deciding.

### **Does our lease or rental agreement allow for a dog? If so, is there a size limit or breed restrictions?**

Check your lease agreement for specifics before bringing home a dog or puppy.

### **Are we being realistic?**

This all can be overwhelming but it is meant to be. Getting a dog or a puppy requires much consideration before you even decide if you are adopting a dog from a shelter or rescue or a puppy from a breeder.

**The most loving thing you can do before you get your furry family member is to ask yourself, “Are we being realistic?” If you are and you are ready, then the dog who comes into your home is a lucky pup indeed.**

**If you are NOT ready, then waiting until you are is the best thing you can do for your future dog’s well being.**

*Now that you have read through the guide book, please use this as a reference to reflect back on as you fill out the worksheet.*

# **Family Worksheet**

*We will use this completed worksheet as our talking points for our scheduled in person consultation. Please let me know if you need more time to complete this and we can reschedule accordingly.*

## **Questions to ask yourself and your family**

To get the most from this worksheet, please read the descriptions under each heading in the guide book then take time to talk to your family and reflect within yourself before you answer. Be as honest and truthful as you can.

**Do we all want a dog?**

**When is the right time to bring home our dog or puppy?**

**Do I have time to train this dog? Link to AVSAB force free dog training statement is in the guide book above.**

**Who will be responsible for our dog's care? Make a list below to help everyone decide.**

**Did we make a list of all the traits we want, don't want, or are willing to work with in our dog or puppy. Do we all agree? Make a list below.**

**Do we want a puppy or an adult dog? Make a list of the pro's and con's of each...**



**How experienced am I with raising a dog?**

**Do we have the room for a dog?**

**Is our house set up for the kind of dog or puppy you want?**

**Do we have a fence or a way to keep a dog or puppy safe when they are outside with us?**

**Do we feel financially comfortable with the additional cost of adopting a dog?**

**Do we have access to the resources we need for our dog?**

**Are we ready for a commitment of an average of 10 to 14 yrs?**

**Are there breed restrictions in our city?**

**Are there breed restrictions with our insurance?**

**Does our lease or rental agreement allow for a dog? If so, is there a size limit or breed restrictions?**

**Are we being realistic?**

Notes or thoughts:

**\*\*\*If you have questions please feel free to reach out to me\*\*\***  
**[kathy.wolff00@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.wolff00@gmail.com)**