

Things to know before:

GETTING A NEW DOG



Looking to get a new dog?

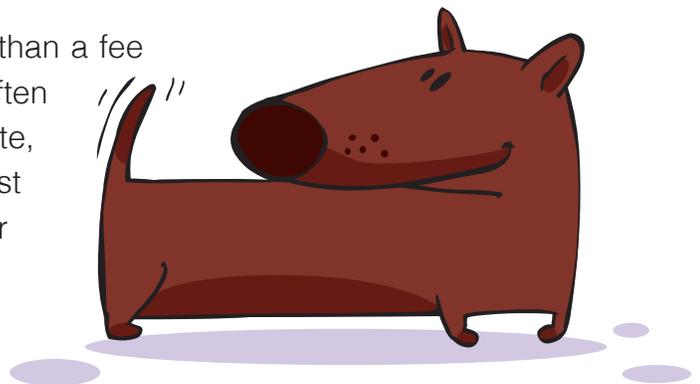
Here at The Good Dog Spot, we think the decision to get a new pet is a big one, and one that should be given a lot of thought and time. It is important to consider the cost of a dog, the amount of time they require, the amount of space and exercise they need, and what your future plans and goals are. If you have thought about all these things and think you are ready to take the plunge, we are ready to help!

We recommend adopting a dog from a shelter or going to a reputable breeder. We do not recommend buying a dog from a pet store.

If you want to adopt a dog, first check out your local shelter! It is a myth that shelter dogs ended up there because they were bad dogs. Most dogs in a shelter are there simply because their family could no longer care for them, whether that means they lost their job, they are being deployed, or their child became allergic. Rescue groups are another excellent source for adopting a dog, especially if you are looking for a specific breed. Petfinder.com is a website that lists what animals are available for adoption in your area.

Things to consider when adopting from a shelter:

- While puppies are adorable, older dogs are easier. If you are on the fence about getting a dog because of the time it takes to train a puppy, an older dog from a shelter could be the right fit for you. Often times they are house trained, they are past the destructive puppy phase, and sometimes they already know basic commands.
- The fee you pay at a shelter gets you farther than a fee you would give to a breeder. The fee can often include shots for the pet so that it is up-to-date, a coupon for a free vet visit, spay/neuter, first round of training classes, and helps the shelter continue to care for homeless pets.



Finding a reputable breeder is another excellent way to find a dog. Purebred dogs, especially ones from bad breeders, can have bad genetics, can be plagued with health problems, and can have poor temperament. Going to a good breeder can help eliminate these risks. Getting a puppy from a breeder also gives you a fresh start. You don't have to worry about what may have happened in the dog's past. It allows you to pick the color and gender you want.

Things to look for in a breeder:

- Good breeders do NOT let you buy puppies online. They require an application and that they meet you.
- You should be allowed to meet the parents of the puppies, and you SHOULD meet the parents. This allows you to see if they have any health problems or temperament issues.
- Good breeders have you sign a contract saying that if you ever need to give up the dog, the breeder will always be willing to take it back.
- Good breeders also don't produce a litter of puppies unless they have homes for all the puppies before they are born and are dedicated to making sure those puppies go to a proper home.

Mutts vs Purebreds

With purebreds, you go into the relationship with your dog knowing the pros and cons of that particular breed and can be prepared for the specific needs that breed will need throughout its life. With purebreds, there is always a certain amount of inbreeding that has occurred to obtain the traits. Good breeders try to minimize the risk of genetic or health problems, but there is still always a risk.

With some mutts you know the breeds, and some you have no clue, so it can be hard to prepare for how the dog will behave. Mutts are known to have hybrid vigor, meaning they are healthier than purebreds because they have greater genetic diversity. They can also have better temperaments and less energy because of this.

