



How to Pick Your Puppy

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In reality your puppy should pick you. I can give you some guidelines about the proper temperament, about the parents, the breeder, and puppy behavior, but when it comes down to it, your puppy should pick you. Remember, this is a lifelong commitment not something that can be discarded when it doesn't work out or you get bored.

Breed is one of the most important elements in choosing a puppy. Every breed of dog was developed for a purpose. Hunting, tracking, herding, guarding and companion, are the basic breed functions. Even a mixed breed dog will exhibit certain breed traits from its most dominant breed. Do your homework, know what your breed is all about before you plunge.

Your puppy should be at least 8 weeks old. There is important mother/puppy training which takes place between weeks 5 and 8 weeks that allows a puppy to better make the transition into a new home.

This is a family choice.

All members of the family should go to pick the puppy, including any babies in your household. A reputable breeder should want to meet the family with which their puppy will live. This session allows the breeder and the prospective owners to decide if this is the right match.

1. Plan to spend at least an hour at the breeders' to pick the right puppy.
2. Make sure the facility is clean and well cared for.
3. Look at the interaction between breeder and their adult dogs and puppies. There should be a loving and disciplined atmosphere.
4. Watch the puppies play with each other. DO NOT PICK the aggressive or shy puppy. This type of puppy will take more work as an adult than most people are willing to deal with.
5. Have all members of the family sit on the floor and meet the puppies face to face. Watch their reaction to the family members.
6. As the puppies get bored with the new people in their yard, they will go off to play. The puppy that comes back consistently to "check in", will be the puppy that has chosen to go home with you.

Pick a name that is befitting. If you name your puppy Crash, because he is clumsy and constantly bumps into to every thing, you may want to rethink the name. As "Crash" gets older you will always treat him as a stupid clumsy dog. Your low expectations will help make him what he is.

Start training your puppy from the time you come home.

Remember everything positive and negative you do for the next three months will set the puppy's behavior for life. Unless you plan to show your dog, "SIT" is the best first lesson.

As I said at the beginning, you really don't pick your puppy, it will pick you.

I(we) hereby assume the sole responsibility for and agree to indemnify and save the aforementioned Nitsa Trayler harmless from any and all loss and expense (including legal fees) by reason of the liability imposed by law upon the aforementioned party for damage because of bodily injuries including death at any time resulting therefrom, sustained to any person or persons, including myself (ourselves), or on account of damage to property, arising out of or in consequence of my dog.

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