



How to Choose the Right Dog for You

The Important Bits

Temperament

Choosing a dog with the right temperament is crucial for both you and your dog.

If you are getting a puppy a breed standard is a good place to start to get an overall idea. But more importantly visit the parents and as many other related dogs as you can to get an idea of what temperament your puppy is likely to be. Then see the litter, if the puppies or any of the other dogs aren't friendly choose another litter/breeder. Although temperament is partly based on what happens, some is genetic and why make it hard for yourself, start on the right track.

If you are going for a rescue dog their temperament should already be obvious, but be aware that kennels can make dogs more worried than usual, so ask for the rescue's assessment of the dog before deciding.

Whether you choose a calm, relaxed dog, or one that is more energetic is up to you and your circumstances.

Instinct

Most dogs were bred for a purpose such as guarding, herding or hunting and while many dogs aren't used for these purposes any more bear in mind that your dog will still have this instinct in him to a more or lesser degree. Again this needs to be accommodated for when bringing a dog into your home. If a dog doesn't have an outlet for a natural behaviour it can create behaviour issues.



The Important Bits

Exercise

All dogs need exercise, both physical and mental. The amount depends on breed and individual dog but if you just want a 30 minute walk around the block don't get a spaniel or collie. If you want to walk for miles a day something with a good amount of stamina is ideal, maybe a husky. If you want a couch potato have a think about a lurcher or great dane.

Mental stimulation needs to be given to dogs and the amount again depends on breed and individual dog. A poodle will need more than a bichon frise for example. If you want to do agility or flyball think about a cocker spaniel over a dachshund.

Noise

Dogs bark - fact. But some breeds bark more than others. If you live in a flat a breed that doesn't bark to much - such as a labrador or basenji may be better than one that loves to bark - such as a beagle or malinute. All dogs can be taught not to bark so if you have a favourite breed it doesn't have to be a deal breaker.



The Important Bits

Grooming

Dogs have a variety of coats, some need little maintenance (once a week) whereas some need daily grooming. You need to ensure you have time to put aside to do this for your dog. You don't want your dog's coat to get matted.

You can get the correct brush and do this yourself or use a professional groomer. Some dog's coats need to be cut regularly as they don't stop growing.

Cost

It can cost a lot to have a dog as a pet:

Initially - collar, lead, bed, bowl, toys, microchipping

Ongoing - toys, food, treats, flea/worm treatments, insurance, training, grooming

Extras - unexpected vet bills, neutering



The Important Bits

Health

Some dog breeds are prone to certain genetic conditions. These should be checked by the breeder if possible so they aren't breeding lines where this condition is present, but some puppies can develop them later in life and not all conditions are able to be tested for at present.

If buying an adult dog ask if they know of any previous health issues. And take your new dog/puppy to the vets straight away for a full check up.

Training

It is a good idea to decide how you want to train your dog before you get them. If you are getting an adult dog and have had many well trained dogs before then you may want to just train your dog at home.

If you are a first time owner taking your dog to a training class or getting a trainer to come to you for a 1-1 session would be good to get you and your new dog off on the right track

If you are getting a puppy socialisation and training classes aimed at puppies is a great idea.

Whichever way you decide to train it is a good idea to start right away.



Have Fun with Your Dog

Any questions?

For more information on our training and workshops contact us:

info@mmpsw.co.uk

www.facebook.com/MuddyMuttzDogTraining

