



GUIDE TO
Choosing your
new Puppy



ANGELLA WHITEHEAD IMDT

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BEFORE YOU DECIDE ON A PUPPY

There are lots of things to consider when you are thinking of adding a new puppy to your family!

HOW MUCH SPACE DO YOU HAVE?

Think about how much space you have in your home and garden. There is no point looking at Great Dane puppies if you live in a bedsit! Some breeds do perfectly well in apartments, as long as they have regular access to outside and plenty of walks!

RESEARCH THE BREED

Research carefully into any breed that you are interested in.-
good and bad points!
So many problems can be avoided by picking a breed that suits you and your family!
Be realistic-dont go for high energy breed (working breeds) if you are a couch potato-similarly, dont go for a lazier breed if you are planning on running with your dog!

POSSIBLE HEALTH ISSUES

Find out about any possible known health issues associated with the breed-particularly the brachycephalic breeds such as pugs and French Bulldogs.
Skin or eye problems? Heart problems? Hip issues?



SEX

Have a think about the sex of dog that you would prefer, and any costs of neutering in the future should you want to do that.

GROOMING

Think about the type of coat the breed that you have chosen has.

Will it need to see a groomer regularly-factor in this cost too.

Does it shed? Does it need grooming daily? Most poodle mixes actually require a lot of coat maintenance to keep them comfortable, so its definitely an important and often overlooked aspect of getting a dog!.



INSURANCE

Research Insurance companies for pet insurance and get the best insurance that you can afford. Also think about whether you can lifetime costs. Dogs are expensive so ensure you have the funds to take care of them from the time they are puppies to when they are old. The expenses don't end after the initial purchase of your dog which tends to be around £400-£900. They need to go to the vet, have plenty of food and water, a bed, collar, lead and other accessories to keep your pet happy and safe.

TIME

Get ready to sacrifice your time. Similarly to having a small child, bringing a new puppy into your home means you take responsibility of having a living being whose needs often come before your own. This means you might have to sacrifice more time and energy into this small creature than you first thought or that you are accustomed to.



RESEARCH YOUR BREEDER CAREFULLY

If you've researched your breed properly, you should now be armed with lots of questions for your chosen breeder. A good breeder will be happy to answer these questions-and they should have a lot of their own-they need to make sure that you are a suitable home for one of their pups as well! They should definitely have information regarding vaccinations/worming/feeding and also any hip scores of parents etc if needed.

ALWAYS ALWAYS ALWAYS go to the breeders home. I cant stress this enough!! Do not arrange to meet them somewhere to collect the pup or have it delivered to you. **Puppy Farmers can be unscrupulous!!**

You need to see and meet the mother of the puppies with the puppies (and if possible the father as well).

This will let you know if:

- The mother is sociable with people .
- The parents are healthy and happy? Clean?.
- Does the Mother look like the breed standard?.
- There are any obvious temperament issues (aggression, fearfulness). Are the parents barking at you? If you see any sign of this, remember that puppies can grow up to be like their parents!!

Genetics and Epigenetics can have a massive influence on your puppies future behaviour.

You CAN say no-if you are unhappy with anything you see, make your excuses and leave!!

The Puppies

CHECKLIST

Here is a list of the things you need to look for when visiting your potential new pup!

- Meet at puppies home?
- Seen Mum? With the puppies? (Dutiful mums make more socially and physically engaged puppies)
- Mums age? (should be over 1 but not too old)
- How many litters has Mum had?
- Seen Dad? What was he bred for?
- Does it look like a dog lives in the house?
- Has the breeder asked you questions?
- Is the breeder happy to answer any of your questions?
- Are there littermates? How many?
- Are they interacting with each other?
- Where are they kept?

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- If not in the house, have they been exposed to household noises such as washing machine/h Hoover etc?
- Has the puppy been weaned? **
- What is the puppy eating? How often?
- Has the puppy met other dogs or people?
- Can you return the puppy if health issues arise immediately after taking her home?
- Kennel Club registered?
- Is puppy microchipped/wormed/vaccinated?
- Can you go and see the puppy more than once?

****At 4 weeks the puppies should be weaned onto a solid diet.**

Legally, puppies should not be sold at less than 6 weeks old.

Once the decision has been made, the breeder should supply you with all the necessary paperwork and a diet sheet telling you exactly what, how much, and when the pup is fed.

It is very important not to change the diet immediately as this can cause tummy problems. If the food supplied isn't very good quality, you can start to move over gradually in the next couple of weeks.



Again if you aren't happy with anything you've seen-walk away!!

You might feel like you need to rescue the puppy, but this just encourages unethical puppy farmers to carry on breeding, and you may be left with a puppy with lots of health issues or other problems.

There are plenty of amazing breeders out there, so make sure you do your research!

**Have fun choosing your
Practically Perfect Puppy!**

