

SHOULD YOU GET A PUPPY OR ADULT DOG?

Almost everyone loves puppies. They're cute. So cute that people often forget the time and work involved.

Puppies should not be separated from their littermates before 8 weeks of age. They need this time to socialize with their littermates and mother. After 8 - 12 weeks, the puppy is ready to move to a "human" family. The puppy should be well socialized before coming to his new home, continue to socialize the puppy to respond calmly when approached by strangers such as people on the street or vets, children and other dogs. The puppy should have received the necessary vaccinations to venture into the world under your supervision at all times.

This is time-consuming work. Puppies will need to be housebroken, and during this time, they will still have accidents in your house. Are you ready for this? Puppies also like, and need, a great deal of attention. Some may even damage your home by chewing on furniture if left unattended. Remember if your puppy does something he should not it is YOUR fault, he is only a puppy and needs your careful supervision unless contained in a safe location such as a crate or puppy pen.

Puppies will also need a series of vaccinations. It's important to go to the vet to ensure your new puppy's good health.

An adult or older dog that is already housebroken may be a better choice for people who work and don't have time to raise a puppy.

However, be aware that adult dogs often have special needs too. Adult and older dogs may already have behavior characteristics from their previous home. For example, every time a dog hears a horn beep he may bark a lot. This could be because due to a previous experience. Often you will not know the history of an adult or older dog; some behaviors may be simple to correct however, some may require special training and attention.

Questions to ask yourself:

Will the older dog be able to adapt to a new home?

How much time can I spend training my dog?

Do I have the patience needed to meet a dog's needs?

Why do I want a puppy (dog)?

Getting a dog is an important decision and a commitment for the life of a dog. Make a decision that will be good for you and more importantly, for the puppy or dog.