

Choosing a Dog

Guide to selecting a dog will fit your life and family.



Rescue or Purchase?*

ADOPTING A SHELTER DOG

- Best choice for first time dog owners and those who want a family dog without intention of showing competitively
- Still able to adopt preferred breed of dog by checking area shelters as well as breed specific rescues (nearly every recognized breed has one in the USA!)
- Dog will have been checked by staff and vets so you will have prior knowledge of medical or behavioral challenges if any
- Dog will already be spayed or neutered (often already included in your price of adoption)
- You will be helping your community and saving an animal in need of a good home

BUYING A PUREBRED DOG

- Best option for those who need a specific working dog for competition or a task (i.e. show dogs, service dogs, gundogs, hunting dogs, sporting trial dogs, herding dogs, etc.)
- Will be an expensive purchase (expect *at least* \$1000 for a puppy)
 - Anything low or “reasonable” could very likely be a scam. Any legitimate breeder will have pedigreed dogs and be an expert in their genetics and bloodline.
- Be cautious of “backyard breeders” that do not have good lines—this will not only cost you a lot of money down the road at the vet’s office because of poor genes, you will also be contributing to the puppy mill crisis

*This part is for those looking to *choose* a new dog. If you already have a dog, no matter how you got them, love them enough to train them!

Very Active Dogs

GROUP CLASSIFICATIONS: WORKING, SPORTING, TERRIER, HOUND,
HERDING

Very Active Dogs

- These groups of dogs were bred to perform jobs that require superior mental and physical abilities. They desire to be extremely active as well as learn and perfect tasks.
- Because these dogs were created to work, they get bored easily when understimulated and can turn to destructive behaviors, barking incessantly, and biting/chewing/shredding.
- Walks alone will not suffice for these dogs. They need to have opportunities to chase, retrieve, and hunt (can be in the form of puzzles).
- Common dogs in these groups: Cocker Spaniel, Irish Setter, Golden Retriever, Labrador Retriever, German Shorthaired Pointer, Cane Corso, Beagle, American Foxhound, Bloodhound, Dachshund, Boxer, Great Dane, Mastiff, Rottweiler, Siberian Husky, Schnauzer, American Staffordshire Terrier, Rat Terrier, Australian Cattle Dog (AKA Heelers), Australian Shepherd, Border Collie, Welsh Corgi, German Shepherd Dog, Shetland Sheepdog, and many more!
- Check out your dog's original purpose and breed standards: www.akc.org/dog-breeds
 - If your dog is a mix-breed it could share many different characteristics across several types of dogs

Moderately Active Dogs

GROUP CLASSIFICATIONS: NON-SPORTING

Moderately Active Dogs

- The Non-Sporting group of dogs is sort of a hodgepodge of breeds that range from super enthusiastic working/sporting type dogs to lap dogs. Although every type of dog needs training and exercise, dogs classified in the Non-Sporting group vary widely in just how much activity they demand to be fully satisfied.
- Since many of these Non-Sporting dogs were not bred for a specific job but for their looks and pleasant dispositions, these friendly pets can really exemplify the “man’s best friend” adage. They can be great dogs to socialize and welcome into a family with kids. Since these personality winners typically love to be around their people, interactive games of fetch, hiking as a family, or learning new tricks are great ways to enrich your dog’s life.
- Common dogs in these groups: American Eskimo Dog, Bichon Frise, Boston Terrier, Bulldog, Chow Chow, Dalmatian, French Bulldog, Poodle, Shiba Inu, and many more!
- Check out your dog’s original purpose and breed standards: www.akc.org/dog-breeds
 - If your dog is a mix-breed it could share many different characteristics across several types of dogs



Less Active Dogs*

GROUP CLASSIFICATIONS: TOY

*ALL dogs need proper mental and physical exercise

Less Active Dogs

- The specialty of the Toy group of dogs is their aptitude for companionship. They were bred to be small and primarily to fulfill the role of a lap dog that provides comfort and joy in their homes. Even though they are tiny, they still need and enjoy lots of attention, training, and exercise. Little dogs need activities too!
- A lot of Toy group dogs get the stereotype of “ankle-biters” because they can be over-loyal to a family or owner and act protective and aggressive to others. Biting and growling is *never* cute even if the dog is small and won’t cause a lot of damage. Owners should be vigilant and correct negative behaviors, even from Toy dogs. Boundaries are essential when training these tiny companions.
- Common dogs in these groups: Chihuahua, King Charles Spaniel, Maltese, Italian Greyhound, Papillon, Pekingese, Pomeranian, Toy Poodle, Pug, Shih Tzu, Toy Fox Terrier, Yorkshire Terrier, and many more!
- Check out your dog’s original purpose and breed standards: www.akc.org/dog-breeds
 - If your dog is a mix-breed it could share many different characteristics across several types of dogs