

pure commitment

*How to choose your new
best friend*



CANADIAN
KENNEL
CLUB

Promoting purebred dogs for over 125 years.

Ready to experience pure love?

When it comes to welcoming a pet into your life, the decision should be made rationally, not just emotionally.

Becoming the proud owner of a new puppy can bring endless joy to you and your family. But for every moment of happiness, there must be an equal measure of responsibility. Simply put, raising a well-trained, well-adjusted dog takes a lot of love and a lot of work.

This brochure will take you through some important considerations regarding dog ownership as well as guide you in your search for your new best friend.



Is now the right time for a dog?

Asking yourself a few key questions will help determine if becoming a dog owner is the right thing right now – for you AND for the dog.

Am I willing to make time for a dog?

Dogs are not self-sufficient. They need constant love, support and training – especially during their first year. The more you put into raising your pet the more rewarding the experience will be. Be honest about how much time you'll realistically be able to devote to your dog and consider how you might adjust your lifestyle to give your pet the focus and attention it will require.

Will my dog be happy here?

Where you live and the type of home in which you live will have a significant impact on the quality of life your dog is able to enjoy. Apartments and condos offer a different environment than detached houses with fully fenced yards, for example. Every dog has different needs, which means the living space you'll be sharing with your pet must be appropriate for a mature dog – not just a puppy – and suitable for the particular breed you choose.

Does EVERYONE want a dog?

In order to successfully welcome a dog into your life and home, everyone living with the new member of the family must share your enthusiasm and commitment. A house divided may lead to disagreements, which creates a hostile environment for your puppy and could result in the dog being returned, both of which cause stress for the animal. Are their children in the home? Additional effort will be required to nurture the relationship between kids and canine.

Who will take care of the dog?

From training to feeding, exercise and affection, dogs require a lot of one-on-one attention. If you are the sole owner, be prepared to undertake the role of primary caregiver, engaging additional support such as walkers or groomers as needed.

If your new canine friend is brought home to be the family dog, everyone in the household should be committed to its care. Creating a schedule and dividing up responsibilities will help keep things fun and fair.

Can I manage the costs of having a dog?

Raising a happy, healthy, well-adjusted puppy requires financial investment as well as time. Initial expenses will include everyday items like a leash, food bowl and bedding. You should also budget for additional ongoing expenses such as proper food, regular veterinary visits, grooming, etc. Consider investing in obedience training and pet insurance for increased satisfaction and peace of mind.

Is this dog for someone else?

Seeing a loved one's face light up upon receiving a puppy is priceless but giving someone a puppy as a surprise could carry a heavy cost. Buying a dog for someone else without consulting the person is never appropriate and may result in the neglect or abandonment of an innocent animal.



Which purebred is right for you?

Picking your new purebred puppy is very exciting, but the selection process can be overwhelming. In choosing your pet, know that there are many advantages to opting for a purebred dog. With so many different pure breeds available, each with their own distinct characteristics and natural instincts, choosing wisely will require some help.

The Canadian Kennel Club registers 175 unique breeds in Canada and offers Canadians access to a nationwide network of registered breeders. Purebreds are carefully tested and selected by breeders, which helps ensure the health and quality of the puppy you take home. A reputable breeder will provide on-going support for the lifetime of the dog.



Our online search tool (found at thepuppylist.ca) helps would-be dog owners narrow down their search to a few breeds of interest, making it easier to make the right choice.

Purebred dogs offer unique qualities such as predictable sizes, different coat types (long, short, curly, hairless, etc.), identifiable instinctive behaviour (such as herding, retrieving and tracking), temperament, etc. that are passed down through each generation through a meticulous breeding process.

Owning a purebred dog can open a whole new world of sport for its owner. From Tracking and Lure Coursing to Obedience and Conformation, watching a dog do what it was bred to do can be a hugely satisfying experience and your dog will love it too. Some of the qualities you'll want to consider for your puppy include:

Size (at maturity) – determines living space required

Coat type – determines grooming time/frequency required

Energy level – determines exercise needs and free space requirements

Original breed purpose – indicates instinctive behaviour (i.e., barking, protecting, retrieving, etc.)

Temperament – determines obedience needs, level of independence or attachment, aggressive or passive nature, etc.

Allergies – some breeds cause less concern for allergy sufferers

What should I look for in a breeder?

Even though you'll be bringing your pet home as a young puppy, the breeder is actually the person who's there from the very beginning. In order to help you find a reputable breeder – one whom you can trust and rely upon – we've put together a list of recommendations:

Visit the kennel before buying the dog.

The facility should be clean, with ample space, and the animals should appear healthy and well cared for. A reputable breeder will welcome your visit to their kennels and will want to know about you, your family and your lifestyle. It shows that they care about their dogs. A good breeder will discuss particular needs or problems associated with the breed.

Warning signs:

- Breeder discourages your visit
- Breeder offers to sell the puppy sight unseen
- Full kennel access is restricted

Make certain the dam (dog's mother) is on-site and available for you to see.

This is essential since the mother should be present with a new litter. You should also ask to see the sire (father) and if this is not possible then inquire why. Acceptable reasons include the dog having been used for stud purposes only or that the dam was artificially inseminated.

A reputable breeder will also have an official CKC pedigree that includes the name and registration numbers of the parents, grandparents and great-grandparents as well.

Warning signs:

- Breeder does not have the dam on the premises
- Breeder cannot provide the pedigree
- If breeder refers to the CKC, confirm this refers to the Canadian Kennel Club specifically



Ask to see health certificates and records of visits to the veterinarian.

Some breeds have a history of inherited health issues and a reputable breeder will have established a program that drastically reduces or eliminates the occurrence of these traits. Ask to see the formal health clearances for both the dam and the sire as well as the veterinary records of the puppy. A reputable breeder will sell puppies that have been to the veterinarian for an initial visit for shots and a check-up.

Warning signs:

- Breeder advises that health records are not available or will be sent with the certificate of registration
- Breeder advises that the breed does not have any health problems
- Breeder advises that it is your responsibility to take the puppy to the veterinarian

Insist upon a signed bill of sale.

A bill of sale is part of your legal protection and should be dated and signed by the breeder and include your name, the dog's breed and identification number, and verification that you will be provided with registration papers. Never pay, in whole or in part, without first being provided with a proper bill of sale containing all of the above, plus the total price of the dog, including registration.

Warning signs:

- Breeder asks for a deposit or full payment with promise that a bill of sale will be sent later

Insist upon a written guarantee.

It is the nature of genetics that a dog's lineage can be clear of problems for five generations but problems may still crop up. A guarantee outlines your compensation in such a situation (as opposed to an assurance that a problem will never occur). Reputable breeders will provide a detailed guarantee for their dogs, including a return and replacement policy.

Warning signs:

- Breeder advises that the guarantee will be sent to you with the registration certificate
- Breeder will not guarantee against genetic problems



Confirm that the dog has been permanently and uniquely identified.

Your purebred dog must be identified with a Canadian Standard microchip transponder or a tattoo prior to leaving the breeder's premises, as per Canadian law. It is the responsibility of the breeder to pay for this identification. A tattoo should be easily read with the naked eye. If the dog has a microchip, the breeder should have an electronic scanner, which they'll use to confirm that the number matches the one on the bill of sale or the breeder will supply a veterinarian's certificate verifying the dog has a microchip.

Warning signs:

- Breeder tells you that identifying the dog is your responsibility
- Breeder tells you that the microchip has been implanted but is unable to scan it or provide a veterinarian's certificate verifying its presence

Confirm CKC registration of the parents, the litter and the puppy.

Any breeder selling a dog as purebred must register the dog and provide the new owner with the registration certificate within six months of the date of sale – this is the law, as required under the *Animal Pedigree Act*. In order for the puppy to be registered, the dog's parents and the new litter must also be registered. Ask the breeder for a copy of the Certificate of Registration (CoR) of Litter previously issued by CKC. It is the responsibility of the breeder to forward the application papers to CKC, pay for registration and the transfer of the dog into your name. It takes CKC about 15 days to process the

applications and send the CoR back to the breeder, who must then send it to you as the new owner of the puppy.

Warning signs:

- Breeder says you should send in the registration application papers with the required fees
- Breeder offers you the purebred dog at one price with papers and another price without

Ask if the breeder is a member of CKC.

Many reputable breeders in Canada are members of CKC and adhere to our policies, procedures and our Code of Ethics. You can always contact us for membership status about a particular breeder.

Warning signs:

- Breeder tells you there is no advantage to belonging to CKC



What else do I need to know?

To help you be the best dog owner you can be – and to help your new puppy grow into a well-adjusted member of your community – here are some reminders:

- Respect local by-laws regarding leashing, noise and the number of dogs allowed.
 - Always “poop and scoop.”
 - Follow your local leash laws.
 - Enroll your dog in obedience classes.
- A well-trained dog makes a great neighbour.

The CKC and You

Questions?

Contact our Membership Services Division at 1 (855) 364-7252 or information@ckc.ca and we'll be happy to help you make the right choice.

To learn more about our organization, please visit our website at ckc.ca.



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