Information Guide

Choosing and bringing home the right dog for you

www.thekennelclub.org.uk
www.findarescuedog.org.uk
Considering buying or adopting a dog?

Before buying or adopting a dog, you must ask yourself:
- Can I afford to buy the dog I want?
- Can I make a lifelong commitment to a dog - a dog's average life span is 12 years?
- Can I afford between £4.50 and £8.00 per week to feed a dog?
- Can I afford veterinary fees?
- Can I afford to insure my dog?
- Is my home big enough to house a dog?
- Do I really want to exercise a dog every day?
- Will there be someone at home for a dog - dogs get lonely just like humans?
- Will I find time to train, groom and generally care for a dog?
- Will I be able to answer YES to these questions every day of the year?

If you have answered ‘no' to any of the above, you should think carefully before buying a dog.

A useful Suitability Grid Reference overleaf lists all the Kennel Club recognised breeds to assist you with your choice. You can also use our online Find A Breed tool, which uses a few simple questions to help you find the perfect breed suited to your circumstances.

Search for the best dog to suit you, visit www.thekennelclub.org.uk/findabreed to find out more.

The Breed Information Centre

This online resource keeps you up-to-date and informed on a wide range of breed specific matters, whilst also putting you in touch with breeders, Dog Clubs and rescue organisations. The Breed Information Centre provides breed specific information on:

- **Recommended and available health tests**
The health information tab offers up-to-date information on screening schemes and DNA tests to assist in the prevention and control of health issues. This information includes the health testing requirements and recommendations for Assured Breeders.

- **Breed Watch**
Providing anyone involved in the world of dogs, but in particular dog show Judges, with the latest information on visible health conditions and exaggerated conformational issues that are detrimental to the health and welfare of each breed.

- **Breed Standards, history, characteristics and accepted colours**
Providing you with the history of the breed along with descriptive guidelines on its ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance, ensuring that the breed is fit for function.

- **Resources in your area**
The Breed Information Centre includes facilities to help you:- Find an Assured Breeder, Find a puppy, Find a rescue dog and Find a dog club.

For more information:

Visit www.breedinformationcentre.org.uk
Considerations when buying a puppy or adopting a rescue dog:

- A pedigree dog is more predictable as to its future size and temperament than a crossbreed.
- Confirm that the puppy is registered with the Kennel Club and ask the breeder for the Kennel Club registration certificate or, if it is not available, ensure that the breeder undertakes in writing to forward it to you as soon as it is received from the Kennel Club.
- The registration certificate will enable you to transfer your puppy into your name from that of the breeder and receive all the benefits associated with Kennel Club Registration including 4 Weeks Free Puppy Insurance which breeders can set-up on behalf of new owners - crucial protection for the puppy giving it the best start in life possible.
- A crossbreed dog may not be as expensive to buy. Try to find out as much as you can about its parents so that you can gauge its future character. You can also register your crossbreed dog with the Kennel Club on the Activity Register.
- See the mother (dam), as she will provide a good indication as to how the puppy will develop.
- A good match between owner and dog is essential for a happy long-term partnership. Whether it is a puppy, pedigree, crossbreed, rescue or adult dog, the right dog for your lifestyle is very important.

- The Kennel Club strongly recommends that prospective puppy purchasers obtain information on breed characteristics, health and welfare needs prior to purchase by contacting the relevant breed clubs. The Kennel Club website provides information about the different breeds of pedigree dog, together with lists of breed club secretaries and links to welfare and rescue organisations.
- Veterinary surgeries are an excellent source of information. Staff will give you general guidance on what you should do once you have made your choice.
- Use the Kennel Club’s online Find A Puppy service to search by breed and region. You will find UKAS certified Kennel Club Assured Breeders listed at the top of the search results. This means that you can have confidence that these Breeders, along with other Kennel Club Assured Breeders, meet and maintain the high standards set by the Kennel Club, which are in place to ensure that their puppies have the best chance of leading healthy, happy lives.
- Canine welfare organisations and rescue societies always have dogs and puppies available that need good homes. Both pedigree and crossbreed dogs can be obtained in this way from organisations such as Dogs Trust, Blue Cross and the different breed rescue societies.
- Rescued dogs are usually more than six months old, are house-trained, and mainly past the ‘chewing-everything’ stage, they are normally happy to be placed in a loving home. Many have been precipitously uprooted from a loving family by some misfortune, and some have been abused or neglected and need lots of patience and care, to get past the trauma in their short lives.

For more information visit www.kcdogregistration.org.uk

For more information visit www.findarescuedog.org.uk

Search online at www.findapuppy.org.uk or call 01296 318540 and you will be sent one of our Puppy Packs.
Good rescue organisations try to match each applicant with an appropriate dog. They know if a particular dog likes children, can get along with other pets, needs lots of exercise, plays rough, is easy to train, is afraid of adults, jumps fences and so on. They cannot make a good match if they don’t ask questions about the type of home the adopter will provide. So be prepared for all types of questions.

Don’t expect to contact a rescue organisation and get a dog immediately. They will need to check your suitability to own a dog including your home, garden, and work commitments. In many cases they will pay a home visit and will require you to complete a long questionnaire.

Remember, your new dog may be ‘stressed’, worried and uncertain of you, your family and the new surroundings/environment. He/she must have time to adjust. By taking on a rescued dog, you will be taking on his/her past too, and this could be an unhappy past.

If you are keen to rehome a certain breed, the Kennel Club can help you find a specific breed rescue organisation and additional advice.

Know your dog’s roots
The Kennel Club keeps a comprehensive family tree for around 40 percent of purebred dogs in this country. This family tree helps to ensure that puppy buyers get a true purebred dog, with the characteristics and care requirements they were led to expect for a dog of that breed, which includes their exercise and grooming needs, temperament and health conditions to test for.

Help future generations
The Kennel Club holds lots of information about the health test results and inbreeding co-efficients of dogs on its register. This is vital information used by scientists at the Kennel Club Genetics Centre at the Animal Health Trust when developing tests to help fight dog diseases. The Kennel Club also invests any profit that it makes from registrations into areas such as education and the Kennel Club Charitable Trust, which supports research into dog diseases and gives money to dog re-homing charities.

Information at your fingertips
Some disreputable breeders may fake paperwork, such as health test certificates and pedigree certificates. Puppy buyers can check with the Kennel Club if they have any doubts about the authenticity of a pedigree and can see relevant health test results for a puppy’s parents on the Kennel Club Health Test Results Finder. This allows buyers to see whether the breeder has taken steps to help ensure the future health of their puppies.

Help to stamp out Puppy Farming
Puppy farming is a cruel and abhorrent trade, where breeders churn out large volumes of puppies for money and without regard for their welfare. The Kennel Club has regulations in place to help ensure that dogs registered with it do not come from puppy farmers. Breeders need a breeding licence and inspection from their Local Authority if they breed five or more litters in a year. The Kennel Club will not register puppies from those who breed this number unless they have been inspected under the Assured Breeder Scheme or by their local authority and have a breeding licence, except in exceptional circumstances. This should mean that you are not buying from a puppy farmer and not fuelling this cruel trade.
Reasons to be Proud of your Pedigree

Sadly, some puppy farmers are still granted licences by over-stretched Local Authorities. Although the Kennel Club has to rely on the Local Authority licensing regime, as it does not have powers to inspect all breeders’ premises itself, it urges anybody who has concerns about a breeder to let it know. It will then take this up with the relevant authorities so that action can be taken against those who are not above board.

Improving the standards of breeding
The Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme promotes good breeding practice and sets the benchmark for dog breeding standards in this country. The Kennel Club is the only organisation accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to certify dog breeders, under the Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme. This means that puppy buyers can have confidence that Assured Breeders meet and maintain the standards set by the Kennel Club, which are in place to ensure that their puppies have the best chance of leading healthy, happy lives.

Help throughout your dog’s life
The Kennel Club has a plethora of information and services for those who buy puppies registered us, from training through to insuring and exercising with your dog.

Finding a breeder
Buying a puppy from a breeder can be hit and miss if you don’t know what to look for or which questions to ask. By buying a puppy from a Kennel Club Assured Breeder, you will gain assurance that your puppy has been bred carefully and given the best start in life. Breed Clubs are also an important source of contact for prospective puppy owners. Club Secretary contact details are also available on the website and within the Puppy Pack.

Buyers of puppies from Assured Breeders will gain the assurance that the breeder has undertaken to follow basic good practice as laid out by the scheme. Kennel Club Assured Breeders are flagged and will always appear at the top of the list of breeders with puppies for sale, online or in the Puppy Pack.

If buying a pedigree dog always go to a specialist breeder, not a dealer or a pet shop. A dealer usually advertises several breeds of dog, and these dogs may have been obtained from various sources, so their health and condition may be difficult to determine.

If you are browsing a newspaper, magazine or website for a dog, please follow the guidance issued by the Pet Advertising Advisory Group.

Contact the Kennel Club or any major animal welfare organisation for more information.
Reasons to be Proud of your Pedigree

What to expect from a breeder

The breeder should give you the opportunity to see the puppy with its mother and the rest of the litter. This is very important because it will not only give you an opportunity to see the temperament of the mother, but may also give you an idea of the future characteristics and size of the puppy.

Have the opportunity to see all the puppies and be able to handle them, rather than just seeing the puppy being offered to you.

It is the responsibility of the breeder(s) to register the litter with the Kennel Club and each puppy in the litter will initially be registered in the breeder(s)’ name(s). The breeder(s) chooses the official Kennel Club names for all the puppies.

Under normal circumstances, litter registration with the Kennel Club takes about 14 days, after which time the breeder(s) will receive the registration certificates for all the puppies in the litter.

If there is a query with the application the Kennel Club will contact the breeder to resolve and further action may be required which may delay the registration process.

If the dog is advertised as Kennel Club registered, you should ensure that you take receipt of the Kennel Club Registration Certificate. You will not be the current registered owner of your puppy until you complete the transfer of registered ownership.

Please be aware that you will require the signature of the breeder(s) to complete this. If the registrations certificate is not available at the time of purchase, ensure that you receive an undertaking in writing from the breeder that this will be sent to you when available.

Once you complete this important step, you’ll receive an official personalised Owner Registration Certificate and benefit from all the Kennel Club has to offer.

You should ask the breeder for information on the following:

• A Contract of Sale

  It is recommended that the breeder provide you with this. Amongst other things this should detail both the breeder(s)’ and your responsibility to the puppy. The contract should also list any official Kennel Club endorsements (restrictions) that the breeder has placed on the puppy’s records, and in particular on what basis the breeder may be prepared to remove the endorsement. Endorsements the breeder may place on your puppy include not for breeding and not for export. Before or at the time of sale, you must give a signed acknowledgement of any endorsement placed.

• Written advice on training, feeding, exercise, worming and immunisation.

• A pedigree detailing your dog’s ancestry – this could either be hand-written or a printed pedigree from either the breeder or an official one from the Kennel Club.

• Copies of any additional health certificates for the sire and dam.

• Just like humans, some breeds of dogs can be affected by inherited conditions. The Kennel Club and the British Veterinary Association offer three canine health schemes, which aim to detect and monitor certain inherited conditions. It is important that you are aware of these conditions and know the right questions to ask of breeders before buying a puppy. There are also some DNA tests now available for certain breeds.

• Ask which vaccinations your puppy has had and which ones are still required.

Register online at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/owner or by post.

For breed specific health information search online at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/breedhealth
Mate Select is a useful online health-focused service, which has been developed in conjunction with the Animal Health Trust. It provides invaluable information to help breeders ensure that their breeding programmes continue to have a positive impact on the health and genetic diversity of their breed.

What to look for in adult dogs:

- See the dog in its home environment before making a decision.
- If buying from a breed welfare or rescue organisation, be prepared to be questioned and possibly expect a home inspection. Dogs in welfare or rescue organisations have often suffered neglect and ill treatment in their early lives. It is therefore the first priority of these organisations to ensure that the dogs in their care will spend the remainder of their lives in good, caring and suitable homes.
- Consider the problems which can be experienced when bitches are in season and the cost of neutering, should this be necessary.
- The Kennel club run Find a Rescue Dog which is an online service where you can search by breed and region for pedigree rescue dogs.

For more information visit www.mateselect.org.uk

If you have purchased a Kennel Club registered puppy, the Kennel Club will send you the Dog Owners Handbook – an essential guide to caring for your puppy – when you transfer the ownership of the puppy into your name. The Puppy Handbook will give you essential advice and information to help you to get off to the best possible start with your puppy.

If you have taken on a rescue dog make sure you contact the Kennel Club to update your dog’s Petlog registration details. This relates to the microchip owner details, to ensure that if your dog is lost we have access to your details 24 hours a day, so that you can be contacted with minimum delay and reunited with your pet should it be found and scanned.

For more information visit www.mateselect.org.uk

For more information and to find your local breed rescue centre call 01296 318540 or visit www.findarescuedog.org.uk
When you have bought your dog, what next?

Those early days
Here are some other key considerations any new dog owner should take into account when bringing a new dog into the home:

Do’s
• The Control of Dogs Order 1992 advises that any dog in a public place must wear a collar with the name and address (including postcode) of the owner engraved or written on it, or an identification tag. Your telephone number is optional.
• Train your dog to use the kerb correctly.
• Always clean up after your dog.
• Keep your dog under control at all times.
• Keep your dog close to you when walking it on a lead.
• Respect the Countryside Code.
• Give your dog the correct amount of exercise and play it needs.
• Feed your dog a balanced, nutritious diet with adequate food and water.
• Worm your dog routinely.
• Register your dog with your local vet, attend annual health checks and ensure your dog is adequately immunised/vaccinated.

Pet Insurance
Just like us, pets will at some point fall ill or have unexpected injury. But with pets there is no NHS to absorb the cost - pet insurance helps owners plan for unexpected veterinary bills. The Kennel Club offers an affordable lifetime pet insurance policy with a flexible range of pick and mix benefits, cover levels and excesses to suit your budget

Order your engraved personalised collar tag from the Kennel Club online shop.

• It is now a legal requirement to have your dog microchipped and ensure your contact details are kept up to date. Petlog is the UK’s largest database for microchipped pets and managed by the Kennel Club. The Petlog Premium service can also alert local vets and dog wardens when an owner reports where their pet was lost. This can be done via the Petlog website, it is vital to the effectiveness of this service that people keep their records up to date, including holiday and emergency contact information.
• Attend dog training classes. The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme can provide you with a list of classes in your local area.

Call 01296 318540 or visit www.gcds.org.uk to find out more.

• Groom your dog regularly.
• When booking holidays, make suitable arrangements for your dog – do not leave it too late and ensure all vaccination certificates are up-to-date before booking your dog into kennels.
• Consider that adult dogs of either sex may be neutered to prevent unwanted puppies.
• When travelling with your dog always ensure your dog has plenty of ventilation and shade in a car and that fresh drinking water is always available. Never leave your dog unattended in a car for long periods of time, and NEVER in hot weather.
• Make sure all children in the house understand how to be safe around dogs – take the Safe and Sound challenge! Children and dogs are often very good companions and can learn a lot from each other. Teach your children about Sashi’s Safe & Sound code.
• REMEMBER – not everybody loves dogs. Only a minority of the population are dog owners – respect the views of others.

Don’ts

• Don’t allow your dog to foul footpaths, parks or public places. Local authorities have the power to make it an offence punishable by a fine. (Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005).
• Don’t allow your dog to interfere with passers-by in the street.
• Don’t allow your dog to make unnecessary noise.
• Don’t take your dog into food shops or places where dogs are not allowed.
• Don’t allow your dog to roam freely in grazed fields or through crops.
• Don’t allow your dog tied up outside shops unattended
• Don’t allow your dog to chase livestock or wildlife.
• Don’t leave your dog alone for long periods of time – dogs feel lonely just like humans.
• Don’t allow your dog to roam the streets or countryside unsupervised.
• Don’t spoil your dog – spoilt dogs are as bad as spoilt children.
• Don’t leave your dog unattended in a vehicle for any period of time or in vehicles on hot days.
• Don’t leave a young child and a dog alone together.
There are many things to consider as a dog owner. Your responsibilities to your dog and the community are very important to ensure that dogs and their owners are welcomed into society. It is important to know that each breed has its own characteristics, it’s own function. If you match these with your personality and lifestyle, it is much more likely that you will have a happy and fulfilling relationship with your dog.

A TRAINED DOG IS A HAPPY DOG WITH THE KENNEL CLUB GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME

TRAINING CLUBS CAN BE FOUND ALL ACROSS THE UK, FIND YOUR LOCAL CLUB AT WWW.GCDS.ORG.UK
The Kennel Club works to protect and promote the health and welfare of all dogs in the UK. We want happy, healthy dogs living long lives with responsible owners. All profits from the organisation go straight into funding the many programmes run in the best interest of dogs and dog owners and to support the Kennel Club Charitable Trust to re-invest into a wide variety of welfare and health programmes.

Anyone can register their dog with the Kennel Club. By registering you will demonstrate your commitment to your dog’s well-being and to the health and welfare of all dogs. You can register online today at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/dogregistration.

Whatever your dog’s needs, the Kennel Club is here to help and support you.

Find out more by contacting us on 01296 318540, or visit our website at www.thekennelclub.org.uk to find out more about the wonderful world of dogs.

Additional guides on a wide range of subjects are also available to download from our website at www.thekennelclub.org.uk:

- Breeding for health
- Breeding from your dogs
- Common canine poisons in the house and garden
- Do you know dog law?
- Do you know how to look after your dog in its senior years?
- How to get involved in fun activities and competitions with your dog
- How to get started with dog training
- How to register your dog with the Kennel Club
- Introducing dogs to children or babies
- Kennel Club endorsements
- Managing your dog’s weight
- Moving house with your dog
- Pet Insurance Guide for dog owners
- Puppy Socialisation
- Road travel with your dog
- So you are thinking of working with dogs?
- Thinking of showing your dog in the UK?
- Travelling abroad with your dog
- Why should I Microchip my pet?