

CARE OF DOGS



'In the whole history of the worlds there is but one thing that money cannot buy, - to wit – the wag of a dog's tail.

Josh billings

The Dog

Tell me a friend, who is more true,

A guide to light my path,

Or wicked rogue with an honest heart,

And eyes that touch my soul.

Honoured by an early king and favoured by a queen.

In work, who is an artist at sport does reign supreme.

The guardian of my family, Our stock he doth protect an tho' he very small,

He earned the world's respect.

Michael Gillow.



So you have decided to get a Puppy!!!!

Where to go from here!

You really should take as much time as necessary to research the type of dog you are going to give a home to for up to 20 years.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS.

Things to consider:

1. **TIME:** Will you really have the time that dogs need to look after them? Will they be left alone while all members of the household are out during the day? Dogs are pack animals and need attention and contact. You are their pack. Boredom when left alone for hours at a time will lead to unwanted destructive behaviour.
2. **SPACE:** This will greatly influence the size of dog you choose, a 60kg Rottweiler probably be not the best choice for a flat or if you have no garden.

3. **MONEY:** Every decision we make involves money. You must allow for the cost of feeding, bedding, leads collars, veterinary treatments, boarding etc, not a small cost.
4. Once you have addressed these issues and you still think you can proceed now to the good stuff!

WHAT PUPPY TO CHOOSE.

You need to choose a puppy/or dog that will suit your living arrangements. Small gentle breeds such as the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel are ideal for introducing children to the wonderful world of dogs but there are many breeds out there and it really pays to do your research!

Older people might be better suited to an older dog, when all the hard work is done! No such thing as you cannot teach an old dog new tricks. Ask yourself what suits your household; will there be someone at home all day or part of the day. It is unfair to leave them alone for prolonged hours.

WHERE DO I GET MY NEW DOG?



Where to get my new dog / companion?

Rescue centre:

Rescue centres are super, they know dogs, and it is not worth it to them to put the wrong dog in the wrong home, it will come back a bad situation for both. I encourage

everyone to visit lots of rescue



centres.

BREEDERS.

Proper breeders are people who have the breed's best interests at heart. They will know all the genetic illness that your puppy could be prone to, you will see the parents, know what you will end up with as an adult dog, and will give you support through the puppy's life. Most good breeders will have puppy's rarely, and sometimes will have a waiting list.



This is a pedigree dog from a really good breeder who is still interested in how he is getting on and still giving the owner support.

SO YOU HAVE PICKED YOUR NEW DOG!

Going to collect your puppy.

Bring a warm fleecy blanket, if you have visited the breeder etc before you could have left one so it has his scent on. It will be the first time away from mother and siblings so he will be scared and need reassurance. You should find out from the owner what diet/food the puppy has been on and have some in. Very often a change in environment along with a change in diet can bring on tummy upsets.

Have his area prepared before you bring him home. His own bed, bowls, etc you can crate train him also as he will see it as his den if introduced to it properly. If your puppy is crying the first night unless you want him in your bedroom with you, try and leave him. It's hard, but will set the routine for the rest of his life.

FIRST WEEK. You should present your new dog to your vet for a thorough physical exam within the first few days of acquiring him. Your vet will discuss the individual needs of your dog, i.e. vaccination, parasite treatment, neutering, microchipping and address any question you may have.

NEVER HESITATE TO CALL YOUR VET FOR ADVICE EVEN FOR WHAT YOU MAY THINK IS A SMALL ISSUE, THAT IS WHY WE ARE HERE!! WE ARE DEDICATED TO

ENSURING YOUR DOG LIVES A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE WITH YOU AND YOU'RE



FAMILY.

Basic guidelines on the care of your dog:

1. **Vaccination.** Usually given at 8 weeks, second injection at 10 weeks, against viral diseases. Annual booster thereafter.
2. **Parasite Control.** Internal and external, special not nowadays on Lungworm prevention.
3. **Neutering:** The female dog is 'spayed' the male dog is 'castrated' under a full general anaesthetic. This prevents the reproduction of more dogs. This only one of the benefits! By surgically removing the dog's reproductive organs we are also eliminating the risk of womb infection and dramatically reducing the risk of mammary or testicular cancer and prostate problems. Apart for the very sound medical reasons to neuter your dog there are other reasons: **Neutering the male dog** can help behavioural problems such as some forms of aggression and dominance behaviour. Urine spraying can be reduced especially if he is doing it indoors, he will continue to do it outdoors as it is a learned behaviour. Neutered dogs are much less likely to wander off searching for females in season.
4. **In the female** she will come into season every 6 months. During her season she will be extremely attractive to male dogs that will scale the highest wall to get to her. They will hang around for days, they are relentless. The female usually has to be confined indoors for the length of her season which is very frustrating. There is a bloody discharge (Proeotrous) for up to 10 days prior to her actual heat (Oestrous) most people find this a difficult aspect to deal with.

5. **The bottom line.....Neuter your dog**

6. **Microchipping:** I see many cases during my working week where dogs are reunited with their owners because we could trace them with their microchip. It is well worth doing. It's a once off small cost and last a lifetime. The microchip is the size of a grain of rice and is inserted with a needle usually in the area of the left side of the dog's neck. It can be done at any time.



7. **Socialising:** The best time to socialise your puppy is from 3 to 12 weeks old. Whatever your pet encounters at this time it will perceive as normal. Mum will give them guidelines also. Their brains are like sponges and they absorb everything! Dogs that are aggressive to certain people/things e.g. uniforms, bicycles may not have had enough exposure to the outside world when they were puppies. They develop anti-social manners because these events are scary and unfamiliar. A good breeder will have started the socialisation process by handling puppies from 3 weeks of age to get them used to people. So when your puppy is out it is important not to cocoon him too much which will give him the impression that the world is a fearful place and his behaviour is then rewarded with you picking him up etc. And telling him he is right! Obviously keep him in and away from public places until he is fully vaccinated and your vet has told you it is safe to bring him out. Bring him in the car, let him meet and greet all ages of people and situations.



8. **Toilet Training:** I get asked this a lot in my working day! A few tips, when your puppy is very small you can use newspapers in a certain area, puppy's need to urinate frequently. You can anticipate this a lot. After meals, when they wake up, if they are sniffing around and running in circles, place him gently on the area you have arranged

and when he goes PRAISE him. You can associate a word with him going to the loo, i.e. When he is going you can say, busy busy, loo loo or whatever suits! Done properly you can get your dog to go on command which can be handy!

9. NEVER EVER STICK HIS FACE IN HIS DROPPINGS, YOU WILL ONLY SUCEED IN MAKING HIM NEROUS AND ANXIOUS. He will know you are cross but will not understand why. If he does have an accident in the wrong place, clean it up and eliminate all odours. The best tip is to take your puppy out often! He will want to go out after he gets the hang of it! And you can have some rest!
10. Remember: bring pooper scoopers with you on walks and clean up after him it's the law! As is having ID on your dogs and you be in control of his behaviour at all times!



