

## Considerations for Selecting a Dog

- 1) Take everyone living in the home, including other pets, into consideration
  - a. There are dogs that do not cause allergy problems
  - b. There are plenty of dogs that are good with cats and other dogs
- 2) Consider your house/yard size and which type of dog would be best suited for this
  - a. Do you live in a house or apartment?
  - b. Do you rent or own your home?
  - c. Do you live in the city, suburbs, or country?
  - d. How much yard space do you have?
  - e. Is your yard fenced?
  - f. Would a high indoor energy level or a low indoor energy level dog suit you best?
  - g. Do you enjoy outdoor activities such as running, walking, hiking, camping, or hunting?
- 3) Consider the grooming requirements of certain dogs
  - a. Some dogs require regular, professional grooming, trimming, stripping, and/or bathing
  - b. Some dogs shed A LOT and need daily brushing
  - c. Some dogs need daily brushing to prevent mat formation
  - d. Some dogs may require grooming habits such as cleaning between wrinkly skin, regular ear cleaning, nail trimming, tooth brushing, and anal gland expression
- 4) Consider your free time
  - a. Do you have time for structured exercise for your dog?
  - b. Do you have time for housetraining or obedience training?
  - c. Do you have time to let the dog out for potty breaks throughout the day?
- 5) Consider the cost involved in buying/owning a dog
  - a. Purchase from a breeder/Adoption from shelter or rescue group
  - b. Yearly vaccinations and annual exam
  - c. Neutering/spaying, yearly dental care, microchipping
  - d. Quality food
  - e. Equipment: leash/collar, bedding, crate, toys, bowls
  - f. Unexpected veterinary costs (illness, injuries, etc.)
  - g. Boarding and/or grooming fees
- 6) Pure bred dog vs. Rescue/Shelter dog
  - a. Pure bred
    - i. Higher initial price (\$500 to several thousand dollars)

- ii. **More predictability (personality, coat, size, grooming requirements, etc.)**
  - iii. **Necessary to find responsible breeder**
  - iv. **Higher chance of genetically inherited diseases**
  - v. **Usually sold as puppies**
- b. **Adopting**
  - i. **Lower initial price (\$50-\$300)**
  - ii. **Usually already neutered/spayed and vaccinated**
  - iii. **Less predictability (personality, size, coat type, etc.)**
  - iv. **Uncertainty about dog's past (possibility of abuse or mistreatment)**
  - v. **Ability to purchase an older dog**
  - vi. **Necessary to spend time at shelter with dog and its caretaker**