



Research the Right Breed for Your Lifestyle

Is there a breed you have had your eye on, or are you confused about how to select a dog? In either case, you should do some homework to make sure that you select the right dog for you and your family. The bonus of selecting a purebred dog is their predictability in size, coat, care requirements and temperament. Knowing what your cute puppy will look like and the kind of care he will need as an adult is a key in selecting the breed for you.

Please use the following resources and worksheet to keep track of your research.

Breeder Search Options

The best way to ensure a long and happy relationship with a purebred dog is to purchase from a responsible breeder. **In conjunction with the Online Breeder Classifieds, other online resources AKC recommends include:**

AKC Parent Club Breeder Referral

A Parent Club is a national organization that represents a breed recognized by the American Kennel Club. The Parent Club owns and maintains the written standard for its breed and implements programs for the betterment of that breed. Parent Clubs represent a wealth of breed knowledge and are an invaluable resource for prospective puppy buyers

Local Club Breeder Referral

You may also search for a local club to reach volunteers from all-breed or specialty clubs.

Breed Rescue Groups

These contacts can assist you with information about purebred rescue.

Why Register with the AKC?

...because you love your dog.

The AKC — We're more than champion dogs. *We're the dog's champion.*

Register your purebred dog with the AKC — It's fast and easy.



Permanently record your dog's name and his place in breed history. Become part of the nationwide AKC voice championing canine health research, search-and-rescue teams, acceptable care and conditions for dog kennels, and responsible dog ownership.

When you register your purebred dog with the AKC, you receive:

- ✓ A frameable AKC Registration Certificate and your dog's name recorded in the AKC Registry.
- ✓ Optional registration packages that include an AKC collar tag with 24/7 lifetime recovery services, a three-generation AKC pedigree, a one-year subscription to AKC Family Dog magazine, and a dog care and training video.
- ✓ A Complimentary 60-Day trial of AKC Pet Insurance*, for newly registered puppies. Details about this special benefit will be sent to you shortly after registration.
- ✓ A certificate for a complimentary first veterinary office visit. Submit your e-mail address when registering your new puppy and the AKC will e-mail you a certificate for a complimentary first veterinary office visit along with a list of participating veterinarians.
- ✓ Eligibility to participate in diverse and exciting AKC events, including agility, obedience, tracking, field trials, dog shows, junior showmanship, and many others!

*The Complimentary 60-Day trial of AKC Pet Insurance is provided by the master policy issued to the Association of American Pet Owners. Activation required. Administered by PetPartners, Inc. Underwritten by American Pet Insurance Company, 907 NW Ballard Way, Seattle WA 98107-4607. Not available in all states and only available to U.S. residents. Eligibility restrictions apply. Contact PetPartners, Inc. for terms and conditions. Must be activated within 28 days of AKC Certificate Issued date. Visit www.akcpethealthcare.com/trial or call toll free at 1-866-725-2747.

Breeder Interview Questions

Once you select a breeder, screen the breeder.

Here are some questions to ask:

- How long have you been breeding?
- Are you a member of an AKC Parent Club or any other dog-related club?
- Describe the breed's characteristics?
- What is this breed's temperament like?
- How big will the dog get?
- How much exercise does the dog need?
- Does this breed bark a lot?
- Does this breed shed?
- How often will the dog need to be groomed?
- What are the best training methods for this dog?
- How old will he be before he acts like an adult dog?
- Does this breed do well with children?
- Does this breed do well with other pets?
- Do you do health screenings prior to breeding a litter?
- Do you show your dogs at AKC events?

Your contact should be willing to answer all of your questions fully. He or she should also ask questions about you, your lifestyle, and your family. If a contact doesn't respond to your inquiries, or doesn't show any interest in the life the dog will lead after it leaves his or her premises, you may want to look elsewhere. A responsible breeder is committed to making a good match between prospective owners and the dogs in their care; that's the kind of person you want on your side as you make the journey into dog ownership.

If a home visit is scheduled with the breeder ask to see at least one of the parents (the dam or the sire) of your puppy. See how the dogs in your breeder's home interact with your breeder. Are they friendly and outgoing or do they shy away?

Are You Ready for a New Puppy?

Too frequently, common sense goes out the window when it comes to buying a puppy. This seems to be even truer when the purchase is by a family with children. Buying a dog is like buying anything else; the more you know before you buy, the better off you will be. This advice applies to all aspects of buying your dog, from selecting the breed to deciding where to obtain the puppy. We strongly recommend that you spend enough time investigating before buying. Remember, dogs are for life. Your initial research will help you narrow the field when it comes to selecting the breed for you and your lifestyle. Remember to consider your dog's lifestyle, too.

Cost of Dog Ownership

The purchase price of your puppy is not the only cost you have to consider. Be aware that the puppy you bring home will need proper care, such as health care (a dog needs annual shots) and food. Your puppy will also need little things like a collar with identification, a bowl, and a leash. Evaluate your budget; ask yourself if you really can afford a dog. Dog Ownership = Responsibility. Take the time to ask yourself these questions and to make an educated decision. You and your dog will be happier for it. There is no doubt that a puppy is a cuddly bundle of joy, but it is also a huge responsibility.

Canine Good Citizen program

Many dog owners choose [AKC's Canine Good Citizen® \(CGC\) Program](#) as the first step in training their dogs. The CGC® Program lays the foundation for other AKC activities such as obedience, agility, tracking, and performance events. As you work with your dog to teach the CGC skills, you'll discover the many benefits and joys of training your dog. Training will enhance the bond between you and your dog. Dogs who have a solid obedience education are a joy to live with—they respond well to household routines, have good manners in the presence of people and other dogs, and they fully enjoy the company of the owner who took the time to provide training, intellectual stimulation, and a high quality life. We sincerely hope that CGC will be only a beginning for you and your dog and that after passing the CGC test, you'll continue training in obedience, agility, tracking, or performance events.

AKC S.T.A.R. PuppySM

[AKC S.T.A.R. PuppySM](#) sponsored by The Hartford, is an exciting new program designed to get dog owners and their puppies off to a good start. The AKC S.T.A.R. PuppySM Program is an incentive program for loving dog owners who have taken the time to take their puppies through a basic training class. Training classes teach you how to best communicate with your puppy. Organized training classes also provide an opportunity for your dog to socialize with other dogs. In classes aimed at earning the AKC S.T.A.R. PuppySM distinction, you'll be able to get information on all of your puppy-raising questions including housetraining, chewing, and the most effective way to teach practical skills such as coming when called. AKC S.T.A.R. PuppySM training is a natural lead in to the AKC® Canine Good Citizen® Program.



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

Responsible Dog Ownership Days

AKC RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER
PET PROMISE

As a dog owner, I promise:

I will never overlook my responsibilities for this living being and recognize that my dog's welfare is totally dependent on me.

I will always provide fresh water and quality food for my dog.

I will socialize my dog via exposure to new people, places and other dogs.

I will take pride in my dog's appearance with regular grooming.

I will recognize the necessity of basic training by teaching my dog to reliably sit, stay and come when called.

I will take my dog to the vet regularly and keep all vaccinations current.

I will pick-up and properly dispose of my dog's waste.

I will make sure my dog is regarded as an AKC Canine Good Citizen® by being aware of my responsibilities to my neighbors and to the community.

I will ensure that the proper amount of exercise and mental stimulation appropriate for my dog's age, breed and energy level is provided.

I will ensure that my dog has some form of identification (which may include collar tags, tattoo or microchip ID).

I will adhere to local leash laws.

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