



## Things To Consider Before Adopting A Puppy

It's true that everything is cute when it's little, and dogs are no exception. Puppies have a way of winning people over with their cute faces and adorable personalities, but not everyone who wants a dog should adopt a puppy. Puppies require a lot of care and attention, and there are many things to consider before adopting a puppy.

### **Attention**

All dogs require plenty of time and patience when housebreaking, and some breeds require more overall attention than others. If you work full-time or must be away from home for extended periods of time, reconsider adopting a puppy. Although a cat also requires regular care, love, and attention, they are considerably more independent than dogs, and are a better option for someone with very little spare time at home.

### **Cost**

Maintaining a pet is much more costly than many people realize, and the cost of a puppy extends way beyond the initial price of adopting the pet. Puppies and dogs require yearly veterinary exams, dental care, pest control, and immunizations, and just like people, pets can become sick and require extensive medical care. Food and grooming are also major considerations when thinking about adopting a puppy. Once you decide to adopt a puppy, you've taken on a financial obligation for the next fifteen years or more.

### **House Size**

Like all babies, puppies start out little, but is your home really large enough to comfortably accommodate a family as well as a full-grown dog? A large four-legged pet can take up more room in the home than an additional person, so carefully consider the size of your home before deciding to adopt a puppy. It wouldn't be fair to the dog to decide your home is too small and give him up for adoption once he's a member of your family.

## **Kids**

Toy breeds can be exceptionally small, and simply existing with humans is sometimes challenging. If you have kids and have considered adopting a small breed of dog, reconsider your selection. A medium to larger size dog is a better choice in homes with children since they're less likely to become victims of unfortunate accidents because of their size.

## **Yard Size**

Dogs require exercise in order to stay healthy, and certain breeds require more exercise than others. If a particular breed you're considering likes to run and play, the size of your yard could play an important role in the overall health and well being of the dog. If your yard is small, or if you don't have a yard at all, choose a breed that isn't as demanding, and plan on taking lots of walks for exercise. Your new puppy will develop into a full-grown dog that will be healthy, and most of all, happy with his adopted family.