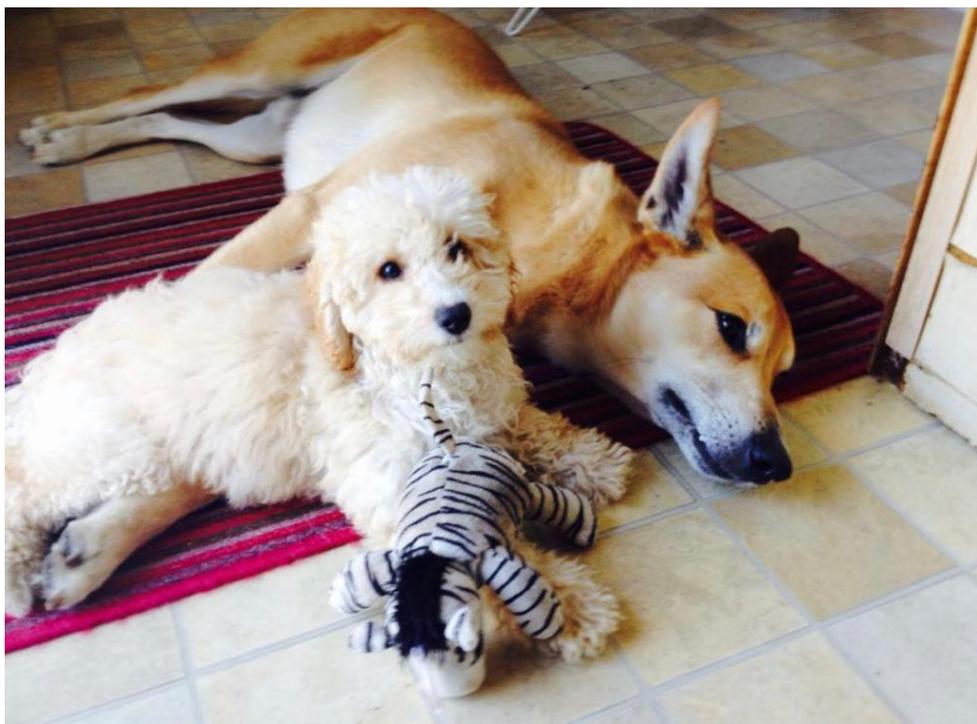


Buying a puppy

Congratulations on deciding that you would like to bring a dog into your family; this is such an exciting time as dogs can really enrich your life and bring you a lot of joy. It is a big decision to make because, depending on what breed you choose and assuming they lead a full healthy life, the dog could be with you for anywhere between 8 and 20 years. They require daily exercise, their food and vet bills can be quite costly and you might need to consider the cost of dog walkers or someone to care for your dog when you go on holiday so it is a big decision but a very worthwhile one!

Select your dog carefully as different breeds have different requirements and you want them to be able to fit into your lifestyle. What this means is that if you regularly go for very long walks, you might want a dog that will enjoy that and not one that has difficulty breathing such as brachycephalic breeds but if you want a dog to accompany you for a couple of short walks to the park every day, then you should be looking at the different breed types and what will fit in with your family best. To help you decide what breed is best for you, please see our article on **choosing a breed**.

Once you have looked at the options of rescuing an adult dog vs getting a puppy and decided that a puppy is best for you, you will need to prepare for a puppy coming into your home. They are going to need a lot of time and effort put into their care as this is such a crucial part of their life. See our article on **Preparing for your Puppy**. The puppy needs to come from a responsible breeder to avoid the potential pitfalls of getting a dog from an unscrupulous breeder. See our article on **how to choose a breeder** which also explains what a puppy farm is and how to spot one by looking at the adverts. Our article, **what questions should you ask a breeder**, is also useful to prepare for your conversation with the breeder.



Choosing a breed of dog

So, you've decided you want a dog! How exciting!! It's really important to choose a dog based on the breed types typical behaviours and lifestyle needs and try to match them to what you can offer a dog.

There are the toy breeds which are small breeds of dog that make great companions. Often they don't need a large amount of exercise.

Terriers were originally bred to hunt vermin. They can be quite a tenacious breed type with lots of energy.

The herding breeds are bred to work long hours herding livestock so they need lots of mental and physical exercise.

Scenthounds love sniffing and are built for endurance rather than speed. They need a home that will give them an outlet for their motivation to sniff things out. If they don't get enough mental and physical stimulation, they will find their own!

Sighthounds were bred to hunt by sight. They can often run very fast to catch prey but can be very relaxed and calm in the home. Generally, they need the opportunity to run once a day and can relax the rest of the day.

Gundogs are a popular breed choice for many homes as they are highly sociable. They need to be exercised 2-3 times a day and they need an outlet for their hunting needs. This doesn't mean you need to go shooting but they need toys to play with and play retrieve games. Often these dogs like to carry things in their mouth and parade what they have got.

Guard dogs will often look intimidating and might bark at anything different to the normal but can be gentle giants. Depending on the breed you choose, they might have high energy or low energy needs.

Have a look on the Kennel Club website for listed breeds, their exercise requirements and other useful information <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/breed/Default.aspx>

Typical health problems of some breeds

Some pedigree dogs may have health problems that are typical for that breed. Responsible breeders will test their dogs and avoid using dogs with pronounced problems or known health problems.

Brachycephalic dogs are dogs with flatter faces such as French Bulldogs or Pugs, they may have narrow nostrils and abnormally developed windpipes causing breathing difficulty which can mean that they can't be exercised very much or that they will need surgery later on in life to open the nostrils or windpipes. These surgeries can be very costly so be prepared for this possibility. These dogs tend to have bulging eyes as well which can cause pain and injury.

Very large breeds of dogs may suffer with joint problems leading to a lot of pain and they may have heart problems later on in life. Dogs with wrinkly skin such as Shar Pei's are prone to having skin problems and eyelid problems. Dogs with long backs can have back problems and if they have short

legs too, they might struggle to move around properly. Dogs with screw tails can be in pain with back deformities and dogs with floppy ears are prone to ear infections. Some common inherited diseases are cancer, diabetes, heart disease, eye problems, skin issues, hip dysplasia and epilepsy.

It sounds a bit worrying that most breeds are prone to some health issues but responsible breeders will choose healthier dogs to breed from and will be working towards eliminating any health issues and improving welfare. For individual breed information on health issues, see:

<http://cidd.discoveryspace.ca/breeds/overview.html> Ask your breeder what tests they have carried out on the parents to avoid inherited ailments.

To try and avoid purchasing a puppy with health issues, don't buy a puppy that has been inbred as this can further cause health issues so check with your breeder that the puppy wasn't from mated family members.

Preparing for your puppy

First night:

Your puppy has just come from a place where he would have been with his litter mates and mom. They are bound to be frightened their first night away from mom and siblings so it's best not to leave them to spend the night on their own. Have the puppy sleep in a bed or a crate in your bedroom or you should sleep in the lounge with the puppy. If you don't want the puppy to sleep in your bedroom when he or she is an adult, then as the puppy grows in confidence, start gradually moving the crate further away from your bed each night until it is in the room you would like them to sleep in. If the puppy cries, bring them closer to you again.

Separation anxiety:

Separation Anxiety is a very difficult behaviour problem to deal with in adult dogs so try your best to prevent it. When a puppy is upset at being left alone and is crying, please don't ignore it. If you ignore it, the puppy might eventually stop crying but it's likely due to the puppy giving up trying to get some help but they are still feeling distressed and having an awful experience. What the dog is learning is being on your own is a negative experience and this can lead to separation anxiety as an adult. An article about letting a dog 'cry it out': <http://www.simplybehaviour.com/letting-dog-cry-cause-permanent-damage/?fbclid=IwAR2oel7fGhojW0QzMesGXI7HSyUEQayr1ySdbVfkS7DmOC2-5s5UWWEz31c>

Puppy classes:

Puppy classes are recommended for puppies, they can learn some valuable life skills and you can always ask to the dog trainer for advice if you're having any problems. There are a few good options for puppy classes in Jersey. It is advisable that you go and watch the puppy class and have a chat with the trainer before your puppy comes home to decide which suits you best.

Vaccinations:

Vaccinations are necessary to protect your dog from infectious diseases such as Canine distemper, parvovirus, Leptospirosis and Parainfluenza and to prevent them passing diseases onto other dogs. Speak to your veterinarian about the age at which the puppy should start vaccinations. Your breeder should be able to tell you what vaccinations they have started.



Socialisation:

From birth, a puppy is learning about the world, a puppy that has experienced more variety of sights, sounds, environments and experiences is likely to be more confident and happy as he or she goes through life.

All animals are fearful of anything novel, this is a survival strategy. But, animals can't be afraid of everything novel from birth or else that would mean they would be scared of everything as everything in the beginning is new. There is a window in which a dog is not frightened of the new things they experience. During this window they need to be exposed to everything that they will need to be comfortable with in their life. So, for pet dogs, that is the home environment, different types of people, other dogs and perhaps other animals like cats or horses and different types of environments such as beaches or built up areas with lots of traffic. This window is called the socialisation period; it varies slightly between different breeds of dogs but is generally from the age of 2-12 weeks of age. A dog spends a large part of this time with their breeder so it is crucial that the correct stimulation and socialisation was provided. It isn't possible to introduce your dog to everything in this period but you can introduce them to a variety of things that help him to learn that noisy things are okay, things that move or wobble are okay and people wearing hats are okay. They can start to generalise things so if they meet a man wearing a hoodie, it's okay because it's similar to the man wearing a hat. Proper socialisation can equip them with skills to deal with a variety of events.

A lack of socialisation during this stage of a dog's life can lead to behaviour problems. Unfortunately, negative experiences during this time can also lead to behaviour problems. You need to tailor the socialisation to your dog's needs, try not to overwhelm them, try not to force them into any situations that they seem a little frightened of and do things at a pace they are comfortable with. Socialisation will not fix poor breeding although, if done properly, can help to improve the dog's behaviour.

For socialisation advice, please see www.thepuppyplan.com

Toilet training:

Toilet training a dog is all about teaching them where the right place is to go to the toilet...outside. To do this we want to ensure that each time they need to go to the toilet, we have taken them outside. With enough practice, they'll associate going to the



toilet with the outside. We also need to make sure we don't let them have the opportunity to toilet indoors. This means we take them outside:

- When they wake
- After eating
- After taking a drink
- Before, during and after a period of activity
- When you come in
- Before you go out
- Before bedtime
- During the adverts
- And every twenty to thirty minutes in between unless they are asleep. During periods of activity change that to every ten to twenty minutes.

Stay outside with the dog and wait. Wait until they go to the toilet, this could take a while so be patient. After they have been to the toilet, praise them. You could play games with them after they have toileted. This might prevent the puppy from learning that they'll go straight back inside after toileting which could lead to the puppy delaying going to the toilet so that they can stay outside for longer. Remember they may need to toilet again after playing! If they don't toilet within 10-15 minutes, take them back inside and try again in 5-10 minutes. If it's raining or cold, they might not want to be outside. If they don't toilet when you have them outside, bring them back in but place them in their crate or if small enough, hold them on your lap/ in your arms to prevent them toileting in the house. Some dogs have learnt to prefer toileting indoors so you need to prevent them from having any opportunity to do this while they learn that outside is where you toilet.

Once the dog is toileting outside, the time between being taken outside can gradually be made longer. Younger dogs have small bladders and need to be taken out more frequently. Try to get an idea of when your dog usually goes to the toilet so that you can take him outside at the times you expect him/her to go.

Avoid making these mistakes:

- Using puppy pads still teaches a dog to toilet indoors. Try to not use puppy pads or newspaper.
- Leaving the door open to give the dog the choice of going outside. This doesn't teach the dog to go out. If the dog has already learnt that toileting indoors is the place to toilet then giving them a choice will only lead them to continue making the same choice of toileting indoors.
- Telling the dog off for toileting indoors! This applies to telling a dog off or any other punishment you might consider when toilet training, they won't understand that they're being told off for toileting indoors, all that they will see is you're in a bad mood and coming across as scary. That 'guilty' look is probably a fearful response to your body language and facial expression. If you tell your dog off at the same time as them toileting indoors, how does he know the problem with what he is doing is the location, he might think the problem is actually the behaviour of going to the toilet. Will he think, I get shouted at in the kitchen, so I'll try the lounge now, gets shouted at again, so he tries the bathroom, gets shouted at again so now he thinks you're scary and the next time, he makes sure he's hiding from you when he goes to the toilet. Your relationship with your dog gradually breaks down as they become fearful to do a

natural behaviour in front of you. The next time you're outside waiting for him to pee and poop, he's too scared to do it in front of you. This is not the easiest and most effective way of toilet training. Follow the guidelines above, you'll get there in the end, just persevere.

- Don't use bleach to clean up the mess. Accidents are best cleaned with a dilute solution of biological washing powder. Avoid using disinfectant as this contains ammonia and can encourage pup to pee there again.

Night time:

- Be near the dog overnight, you might need to sleep near them or have them sleep in your bedroom next to your bed. When they wake up, take them outside to the toilet.
- Over time, their bladder will hold more and they'll be able to get through the night.

Crates:

- Dogs generally don't want to toilet where they sleep so crates can be helpful when toilet training a dog but if you are going to use a crate, do not leave the dog in there to force them to hold onto their poop or pee. You still need to follow the above guidelines.



Puppy mouthing:

It is normal for puppies to bite things as they use their mouth to investigate and to play but it can be quite painful. When puppies are biting you, they are probably trying to get you to play with them. Have long tuggy toys readily available that you can redirect your puppy onto away from your arms that he or she can chew and bite. Playing with your puppy is a great way of creating a strong bond with them.

Provide puppy safe items to chew when you aren't playing and they are looking for something to do.

Choosing a breeder

Puppy dealers:

Puppy dealers operate from the UK and Europe where they mass produce puppies especially the popular breeds. These dogs are kept in terrible conditions, it is cruel and the animal's welfare is not a priority for these puppy dealers. They are very good at disguising the fact these puppies have come from awful conditions, they will set them up in a lovely home so that the buyer would never suspect the horrible things going on behind the scenes. You must walk away and not purchase these puppies. If you buy these puppies, you are supporting this trade and it will continue to grow. Walk away from the sale and report the dealer to the local authority.

How to spot a responsible breeder:

- Gives lots of information in their adverts about the puppies
- Is likely to have a waiting list for puppies
- Insists you meet your puppy before taking them home
- The puppies and their mom are kept in a clean and safe area in their home
- Will ask you lots of questions about why you want a puppy and this particular breed.
- Will expect you to ask lots of questions about the breeder and their puppies
- They should be able to give you their vet's details so you can ask the vet questions and you can check their worming and vaccination status as well as any health tests the parents have had
- Will keep in touch after you've taken the puppy home – ask them if they are still in contact with previous litters
- It is a legal requirement to have the puppies microchipped
- You should meet the puppies and mum and see that they are obviously happy in the environment they are kept in
- Be happy for you to meet the parents of the puppies so that you can be sure of their temperament
- Understands the importance of and has started a socialisation program (see <http://www.thepuppyplan.com>)



How to spot an irresponsible breeder or a puppy dealer:

- Not much information given in the adverts
- They say that they can get you any breed of puppy you want
- Won't let you meet the puppy at their home before you purchase him/her and won't let you meet the mother or the other puppies. Be wary of made up excuses
- Meets you in a public place or has the puppy dropped off at your house
- Doesn't provide you with a vet's contact details and hasn't had the puppies wormed or vaccinated
- The same number will be used in a number of adverts, google the number and see if it has been used on other puppy adverts
- They use words like 'miniature and 'teacup' in their adverts to get your attention
- The photos of the puppies may have been used on all of their adverts, right click the photo, select 'search Google' for image and see if it has been used in other adverts
- If the advert says the puppy is vaccinated, ask how old he puppy is, phone your vet to check if that is the right age for a puppy to already be vaccinated. If the puppy is too young, they are likely to be lying to you.
- If the puppy has a passport, it is likely to have been imported from Europe
- If the advert says Kennel Club registered, ask to check the original documents and check with the Kennel Club before buying the puppy
- Promises of free insurance and puppy packs does not mean it's from a legitimate breeder

Why is it important to choose responsibly?

It's important because the puppy dealers shouldn't be supported. These puppies are more likely to grow up with behaviour and/or health problems which can be very difficult to live with. The puppy might leave the dealer and go on to live a happy life but their mother is not being looked after, she'll be used purely for breeding, kept in awful conditions, not get any medical treatment or a chance to play or get cuddles from people. This is really a system that mustn't be supported so, as difficult as it may be, if you suspect you are talking to a puppy farm, then walk away and report to the local authorities.

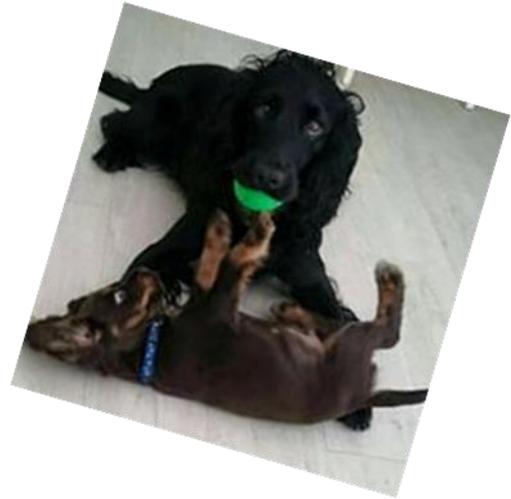
Questions to ask a breeder:

Be prepared to find out more about the breeder and their dogs. This is a suggested list of questions that you can ask them and the reasons behind why the question would be asked.

1. Did you breed the puppy? *You should buy the puppy directly from the breeder or you won't be able to meet the mother and see the place where the puppies were raised.*
2. Are the puppies kept where they were bred? *The puppies should still be in the place they were bred and raised and you should see this place.*

3. How many puppies were there in the litter? *This is good to know so that you can see the mother interacting with more than one puppy. Puppy dealers might use a home staged to look like the puppy was bred there where you can meet him, they might have a dog that they will claim is the mother but isn't so watch how the mother dog interacts with the puppy.*
4. Have any of the puppies or the mother had any health problems? *It is best to buy healthy puppies from healthy mother.*
5. Have the puppies been treated for worms or any other parasites? *The puppies should have had parasite treatment, contact your vet before speaking to the breeder so that you have the information on what age the puppies should have received treatments.*
6. Have or will the puppies be given their first vaccinations before they go to their new homes? *Breeders can start the first vaccinations; contact your vet before speaking to the breeder so that you have the information on what age the puppies can start vaccinations.*
7. Have the parents been screened for any inherited diseases known to be a problem in that breed? *Have a look on for inherited diseases for each breed <http://cidd.discoveryspace.ca/breeds/overview.html> Ask to see copies of the tests done on the parents.*
8. Do the puppies have any form of identification, such as microchips? *It is a legal requirement for all dogs in the UK to be microchipped.*
9. Where are the puppies kept? *Ideally, you want puppies that have been born in a home environment so that their socialisation to home living has already started, things like being used to people walking around, TV, washing machine sounds and vacuuming. This means they'll settle into your home easier than a puppy born in other environments such as in a barn.*
10. How has the breeder started socialising the puppies? *Socialisation period starts at 2 weeks of age and the breeder should start introducing the puppies to a variety of stimuli so that they grow up to be confident, happy dogs. For socialisation advice, please see www.thepuppyplan.com*
11. Ask where the breeder lives, is it a quiet or busy area? Has the puppy been exposed to noises such as traffic, television and household sounds such as washing machines and vacuum cleaners? *Try find a breeder whose surroundings and home life matches your own so that the puppy has already learnt these things are normal and nothing to worry about.*
12. Have the puppies met children? How old were the children and how did they handle the puppies? *It is preferable that the puppies have met a variety of types of people, toddlers, children, young adults, older adults, teenagers and both genders so that they learn that people come in different shapes and sizes and are not scary. It is also important that the experiences are positive and they haven't been rough handled.*

13. Have the puppies met adult dogs as well as their mother? *It is preferable that the puppies have met other adult, healthy dogs so that they learn that dogs come in different shapes and sizes and are not scary. It is also important that these experiences have been positive.*



14. Will you be able to meet all the puppies and their mother? *It is advisable to meet all the puppies interacting with the mother. The mother should have a good temperament and have had the relevant health tests.*

15. Will the puppies' father be present? *It won't always be possible to meet the father of the puppies but it would be advisable to know his temperament and health status.*

16. Ask if the breeder is in contact with the owners of previous litters and if you will be able to contact them once I have the puppy? *A responsible breeder will care about their puppies and interested in how they are doing in their new homes, their temperament and their health. The breeder should say that if your circumstances change once you have the puppy that they will take the puppy back and they won't need to go to a rehoming centre.*